■ BUSINESS / B1
RP outlook change to positive premature, says credit rating firm

■ LIFESTYLE / E2
Randy dandy's advice to male clients: Stick to classics before letting go

■ NEWS / A2
Subic van driver tagged an accomplice in alleged rape by US Marines

■ ENTERTAINMENT / A3-1
All of Hollywood fly by private jets to New York to party

For fifth time, oil firms cut fuel prices by 50¢/liter

By Ronnel W. Domingo

FOR THE FIFTH TIME THIS MONTH, OIL companies yesterday slashed the prices of gasoline, diesel and kerosene by 50 centavos a liter.

Pump prices of gasoline in the country have dropped a total of P2.85 to P3.05 a liter and of

FOR FIFTH/ A21

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

Friday, November 25, 2005 ★★ 16 17 sections / Vol. 20 / No. 350 P18

website: www.inq7.net

GMA removes Palace press corps from Kalayaan Hall

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.

IF EARLIER SHE HAD REfused to meet with reporters covering Malacañang, now she apparently wants all of them banished.

A media-averse Presi-

GMA REMOVES/ A21

Peso rallies to 54.17 vs $

If someone lied, let God be the judge, bishop tells flock

By Christian V. Esguerra

IN ESSENCE, MANILA ARCHbishop Gaudencio Rosales wants the people to see, hear and speak no evil.

"Let us leave the judgments to the Lord," Rosales said yesterday in Filipino.

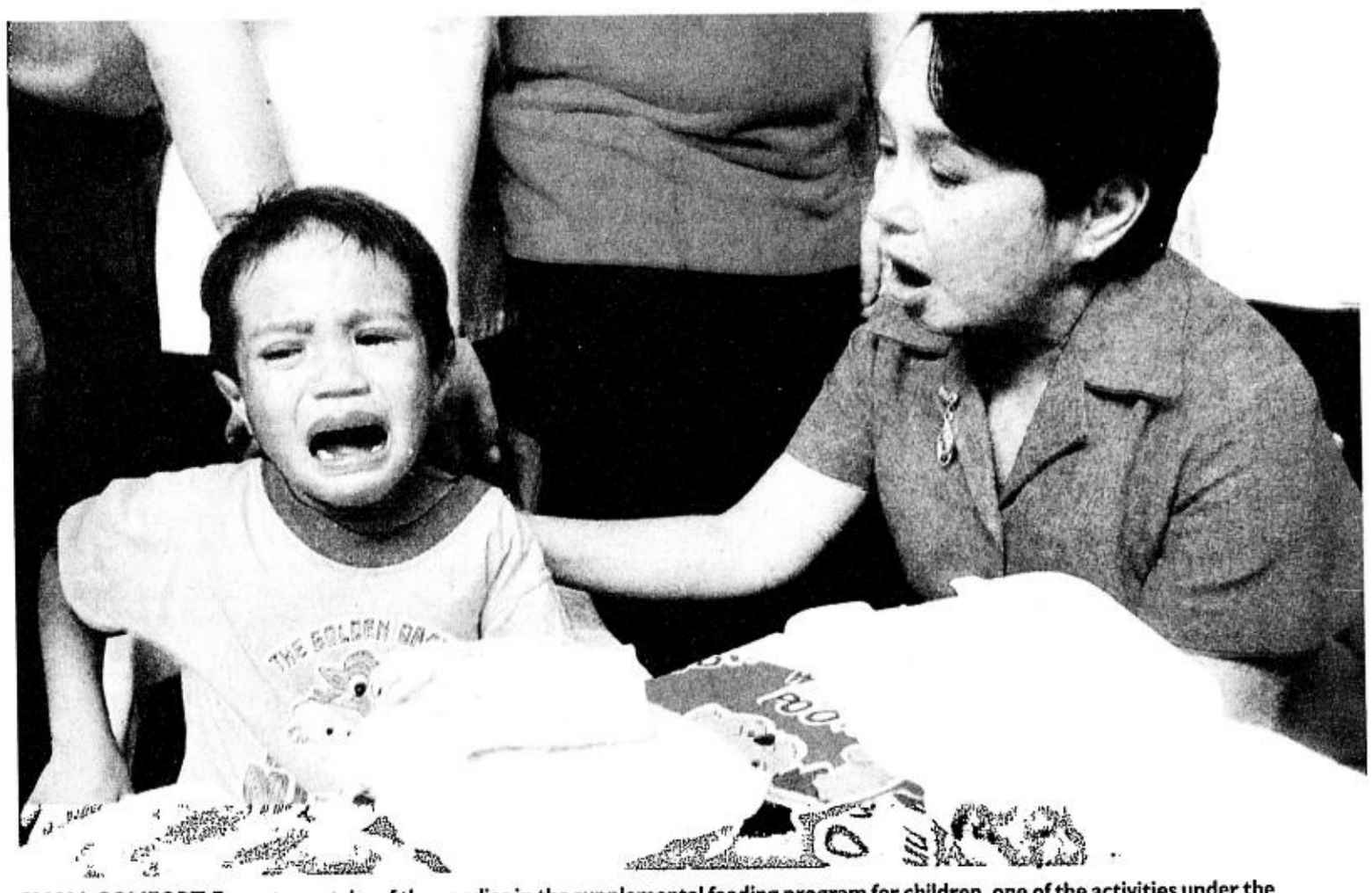
He added, in apparent reference to accusations leveled at President Macapagal-Arroyo: "I'm not taking sides. To me, whether or not there is a problem, a war, or someone lied, cheated or stole, let's put that aside."

Rosales, who has spoken up only rarely since the start of the political crisis swirling around Ms Arroyo, said the people should just concentrate on being and doing good regardless of their position in society.

But setting aside the raging issue of the legitimacy of the Arroyo administration may not sit well with certain quarters, including Rosales' colleagues in the Church, who maintain that the only way to move on is to settle the issue once and for all.

The president-elect of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, Jaro Archbishop

IF SOMEONE/ A4



SMALL COMFORT. Eager to partake of the goodies in the supplemental feeding program for children, one of the activities under the "Maagang Pasko Serbisyo Muna Caravan," this boy fell off his chair at the National High School in San Dionisio, Parañaque. As he cries his heart out, program proponent President Arroyo herself tries to calm him down. LYN RILLON

OFW money, investments from abroad lift currency

By Doris C.Dumlao

THE PESO YESTERDAY rose to its highest level in over six months, extending a monthlong rally that has made it Asia's best performer this year.

The peso rallied to 54.17 per dollar, its highest traded level since May, before ending at 54.30 or the same rate as the previous day, as corporations found a good opportunity to scoop up cheaper dollars.

The local currency has risen 2 percent in the past month.

"The peso is supported by continued inflows from overseas Filipino workers and foreign investments," said Diwa Guinigundo, deputy governor of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

Remittances from overseas Filipino workers peak around Christmas, the most important holiday in this predominantly Catholic country.

James McCormack, Fitch Ratings head of Asia Pacific sovereign ratings, said the country's strong external position was leading to the peso's appreciation.

"Remittances tend to be a reliable source of foreign currency earnings. That should show in the balance of payments," McCormack said. *(See related story in Business, Page B1.)*

He said the foreign exchange reserve position was very good. "I think that those two factors [remittances and dollar reserves] are basically what's behind the improvement in the exchange rate."

The country's budget deficit in the first 10 months was lower than targeted. National Treasurer Omar Cruz said Wednesday he expected the government to run a budget deficit of P140 billion for the full year, P40 billion smaller than forecast.

Shahab Jalinoos, ABN AMRO Bank's currency strategist, said "a lot of positive news on the budget side and a big thumbs-up from the IMF for the Philippines" were boosting the peso.

Earlier this week, the International Monetary Fund said the country had made significant progress with economic reforms.

PESO/ A7

GMA allies rolling out red carpet for Garci

By Michael Lim Ubac and Philip C. Tubeza

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARroyo's allies are rolling out the red carpet for the appearance of Virgilio Garcillano at a House inquiry, after a night of long knives that saw the reorganization of key committees apparently to pave a smooth closure to the "Hello Garci" affair.

The ax fell on four of the five heads of the House committees that jointly conducted an investigation of the wiretapping scandal and came up with a draft report last week that found that the Arroyo administration attempted to cover up revelations the President stole last year's election.

Discussions in an executive session of the panels, also last week, resulted in a deadlock with administration lawmakers insisting that the report highlight a conclusion that the wiretapped telephone conversations purportedly between Ms Arroyo and Garcillano, a former election commissioner, were fabricated in an attempt to oust the President.

On Wednesday night, House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles moved and got the assent of the majority to replace Cavite Rep. Gilbert Remulla, public information; Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo, peace, reconciliation and unity; Akbayan Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales, human rights, and Marinduque Rep. Edmundo

GMA ALLIES/ A21

Lawmakers carve Samar Nature Park for mining

By Blanche S. Rivera

AFTER LOGGING, MINING HAS gained through legislative action an inroad into the Samar Island Nature Park (SINP), a globally significant biodiversity site.

Despite the possible environmental threat, members of the House committee on natural resources have agreed to allocate 25,000 hectares of the 333,300-ha nature park for bauxite mining exploration.

"We excised 25,000 hectares for bauxite mining exploration on the conditions that the area should be defined, and that there will be no mining without consultations," Butuan Rep. Leovigildo Banaag, committee chair, told the INQUIRER in an interview during a briefing of the

LAWMAKERS/ A21

Miriam may be RP first woman chief justice

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

IF SHE GETS IT, SEN. MIRIAM Defensor-Santiago would be the Philippines' first woman chief justice of the Supreme Court.

The administration senator yesterday confirmed to the INQUIRER that she was in the running to replace Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., who's retiring next month.

"The truth is the President (Macapagal-Arroyo) and I talked about it but I haven't made up my mind," Santiago told the INQUIRER.

Another senator first told the INQUIRER that Santiago was "interested" in the position.

But Santiago said the Young Lawyers Association of the Philippines asked for her permission to nominate her and she gave her consent.

"It would be immodest of me to turn it down flat," she said, saying she was willing to have her name passed upon by the Judicial and Bar Council.

Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan, a member of the JBC which recommends nominees to the President, is reportedly planning to ask for an extension of the deadline for nominations to the high court to accommodate Santiago's nomination.

But Santiago said that when the President called her up, she told her: "I'm interested, but not now."

She said she was more inclined to consider the position toward the end of her six-year term in 2010.

Santiago said that being only

MIRIAM/ A4

JUST BETWEEN US GIRLS. Senators Miriam Santiago and Pia Cayetano beam for the camera and Sen. Manuel Villar. JESS YUSON

Southeast Asia's royals coming

By Nikko Dizon and Jerome Aning

SOUTHEAST ASIA'S ROYALTY WILL grace the 23rd Southeast Asian (SEA) Games beginning this weekend with host Philippines aiming to top the medal table.

Prince Norodom Ranariddh of Cambodia arrived at around 5 p.m. yesterday on board a chartered flight for a weeklong stay.

Scheduled to fly in today at 2:15 p.m. are Brunei's Crown Prince Haji-Al-Muhtadee Billah and his wife on board a chartered Airbus A340-200.

Brunei's Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, who serves as president of the Brunei National Olympic Council, will also arrive today at 2 p.m. on board Malaysian Airlines flight MH 704. The departure of the crown prince and the princess has yet to be announced. Prince Haji will stay until Dec. 6.

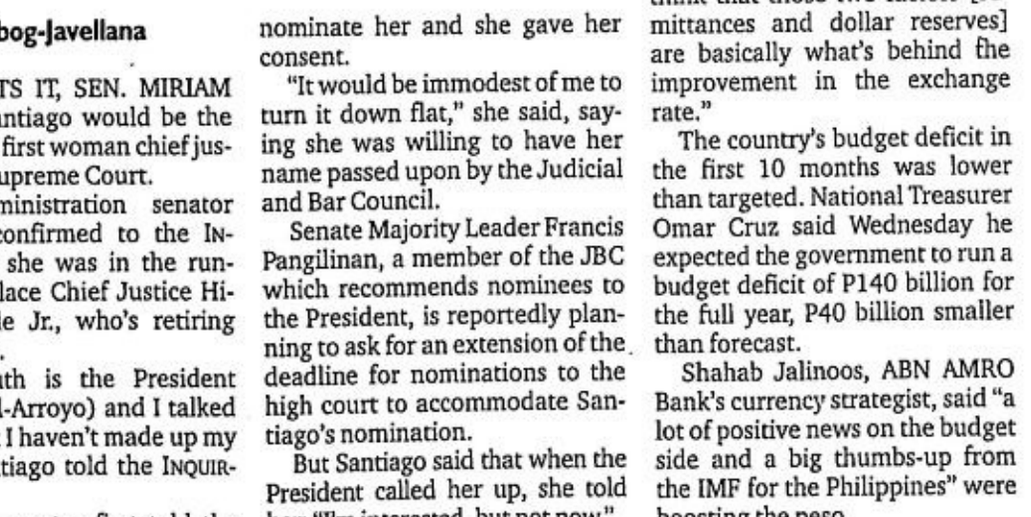
On Saturday at 5:20 p.m., Princess Sievannavari Nariratana of Thailand will arrive on a chartered flight. She will stay until Dec. 4.

Thai Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn will also arrive in a separate plane. The prince will participate in the SEA Games.

While the royalty of Brunei and the princess of Thailand will be coming for the SEA Games, they will also be on official visits, said Judith Dolot, Manila airport public affairs office chief.

The 10-day biennial showpiece officially opens Sunday in Manila, although events will be held in Bacolod, Cebu and in suburbs of the

SOUTHEAST/ A20



SCULPTED athletics, backdrop for the SEAG women's football at the Marikina Sports Complex. JOAN BONOC

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms, particularly over Eastern Visayas. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY CYRIL L. BONABENTE, PDI RESEARCH/11/25/05

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Second **FRONTPAGE**

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback: Inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

FROM WITNESS TO ACCOMPLICE

Subic driver now in hot water

By Ansbert Joaquin and Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

OLONGAPO CITY – THE WITNESS IS NOW AN accomplice.

The driver of the van in which a 22-year-old Filipino woman was allegedly raped by six US Marines at Subic Bay is now considered an accomplice in the case after he gave contradictory statements and went into hiding.

City Prosecutor Prudencio Jalandoni said Timoteo Soriano Jr. was included in the case and was issued a subpoena yesterday because of his behavior since the Nov. 1 incident.

Soriano has 10 days to file a counter-affidavit.

"We decided to consider [Soriano] as a respondent, a principal by indispensable cooperation or an accomplice... It appears from his declaration made to the media that he is attempting to cover up the case," Jalandoni said.

"[Soriano] used to be cooperative then went into hiding. He also gave contradictory statements [to investigators and the media] that he has not formally recanted," Jalandoni said.

"*Parang niloloko na ang kaso* (He appears to be muddling the case)."

The subpoena for Soriano was issued the day after the preliminary investigation of the case began on Wednesday. Neither Soriano nor his lawyer appeared at the hearing.

The complainant and the six US Marines accused of raping her were also absent but were represented by their lawyers.

Soriano's absence was noted after lawyer Francisco Rodrigo Jr., counsel for suspect Chad Brian Carpentier, asked Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority chief investigator Paquito Torres if he had threatened or harmed the driver to force him to say in his sworn statement that the Americans had "gang raped" the victim.

Rodrigo raised the question because Soriano later denied on Vice President Noli de Castro's radio program over dzMM that there had been a gang rape.

Torres denied threatening or harming Soriano, saying he considered the driver a vital witness because he "positively identified" the Americans.

"We don't even know where [Soriano] is," Jalandoni said during the hearing.

He said the inconsistencies in Soriano's statement would have to be checked, like his assertion the victim's pants were down to her knees when the Americans carried her from the van.

Witnesses said the woman was clad only in her underwear and a shirt.

"He also has to explain why he did not immediately report the incident to authorities," Jalandoni said.

Yesterday, Ben Natividad Jr., the SBMA official from whom Torres said he received a text message initially identifying the six Marines, sought to explain how he arrived at the number of suspects and their names.

Natividad, senior executive assistant and chief of staff of SBMA chair Feliciano Salonga, told the INQUIRER he got the Marines' last names from their nameplates after they were ordered to disembark from their ship, the USS Essex, at Subic's Alava Pier the morning of Nov. 3.

"It's not [the SBMA's] call if one or a dozen soldiers would be ordered off the ship but I jotted their family names when I saw them. I later confirmed the names with United States Embassy people," Natividad said.

Palace media chief wants slice of Bunye's pie

By Gil Cabacungan

WELL, YOU CAN'T FAULT HIM FROM TRYing.

A Palace official yesterday said Government Media Group chief Cerge Remonde had been pleading with President Macapagal-Arroyo that his turf at Malacañang's communication division be expanded.

The official said Remonde had been lobbying to get at least one of the three positions held by her "media czar" Ignacio Bunye.

Before his designation as overall head of the President's propaganda machine last June in place of Communications Director Silvestre Afable, Bunye was at the same time the President's spokesperson and her press secretary.

The Palace source said that since Remonde was told that he was unqualified to be the President's spokesperson, the former Cebu radio commentator has since actively campaigning to have the press secretary portfolio.

Press Undersecretary Robert Rivera tried to squash the claim, saying that Bunye was fully capable of handling all three jobs since they were interrelated. Rivera said he was unaware of talk that Remonde had been actively pursuing the post of press secretary.

In a text message to the INQUIRER, Remonde flatly denied being interested in the post. "I have even been wanting to get out of the Communications Department for a long time. I am very, very tired and have long wanted to go back to private media. But I'm staying on for the sake of Madame President," he said.

Wycoco still in coma; prognosis grim

By Margaux C. Ortiz

GRIM BUT HOPEFUL. THIS WAS HOW doctors described National Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco's condition yesterday, more than 24 hours after he suffered a stroke and slipped into a deep coma.

"He is still in a coma, but his blood pressure and heart rate have improved since he was brought here (on Wednesday)," Dr. Dante Morales, medical director and cardiologist of the Manila Doctors Hospital, said in a dzBB radio interview.

Morales said medication had brought down and maintained Wycoco's blood pressure at 120 to 130/80 and heart rate at 100 to 110. "He is still dependent on medications to maintain and stabilize his heart rate," Morales added.

He described Wycoco's situation as similar to that of the late Fernando Poe Jr. except that the former presidential candidate "suffered from a blood clot while Gen. Wycoco had a brain hemorrhage."

The doctors canceled yesterday's scheduled press conference at 2 p.m. and instead issued a medical bulletin which stated that five neurosurgeons and neurologists "do not find the indication and benefit to do surgical procedure" on Wycoco.

Morales told reporters late yesterday afternoon that they had planned to have Wycoco undergo a CT scan and electroencephalography (EEG) but due to "some arrangement details," they decided to postpone the procedures. The EEG or brain wave test is a medical test used to measure electrical activity of the brain.

He said they were also waiting for Wycoco's son Voltaire, who was scheduled to arrive in the country today.

Morales said that they were also limiting the number of visitors allowed into the intensive care unit.

"We allowed his wife and children to go inside because of the suddenness of the incident," Morales said. "As would be expected, they are depressed and praying hard that something positive would come out of the tests."

Some of Wycoco's men were hopeful that the NBI director would recover soon.

"He is fighting back ... his hands were moving," one of Wycoco's aides said.

Morales said, however, it was not clear if the movement "was spontaneous or a mere misinterpretation."

Morales said doctors were continuing to support Wycoco's vital organs until brain function could be evaluated further.

First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, PNP Director General Arturo Lomibao, Transportation and Communication Secretary Leandro Mendoza, legal counsel Harriet Demetriou and former intelligence agent Mary "Rosebud" Ong were among visitors allowed into the ICU yesterday.

President Macapagal-Arroyo visited him several hours after he was rushed to the hospital from his office, where he suffered the stroke shortly before 11 a.m. Wednesday. *With Christine O. Avendaño*

Solons, local execs got cut from fertilizer funds, says witness

SOME CONGRESSMEN, GOVERNORS and mayors received millions of pesos in commissions from their shares of the Department of Agriculture's P728-million fertilizer fund before the May 2004 elections.

Jose B. Barredo Jr., an admitted "runner" at the DA made the declaration in an affidavit he submitted yesterday to the Senate committee on agriculture and food.

Barredo, escorted by former Senate President Ernesto Maceda, showed up toward the end of the hearing. He was asked to swear to his affidavit, but did not testify for lack of time.

He would testify at the resumption of the inquiry in January, said Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., committee chair.

In his affidavit, Barredo said he was asked by a Maritess Aytona in January 2004 to "sell" liquid fertilizer to local government officials using the DA funds.

The fertilizer was supplied by Feshan Philippines Inc., which he said was connected to former Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn "Joc-joc" Bolante.

Barredo said he and Aytona approached congressmen, governors and mayors to inform them there was a DA fund available to them for the purchase of fertilizer, and that they would get a 30-percent commission from the fund.

Barredo said he himself delivered the commissions to certain officials in Roxas City, Bulacan, Aklan, Guimaras and other places.

Bolante, the government official who allegedly managed the fertilizer fund suspected of having been diverted to the election campaign of President Macapagal-Arroyo, snubbed the inquiry anew.

His lawyer, Antonio Zulueta, said Bolante was still abroad.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson said Bolante met over the weekend with First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo in Hong Kong, where the First Family flew after the President attended the Apec summit in South Korea.

"I'm sure they talked about the fertilizer scam. I have my sources [that they met]," Lacson said.

Bolante flew from the United States to meet with Mr. Arroyo, and flew back after their meeting, according to the senator. *TJ Burgonio*

Mark Jimenez still in prison, will be released on Dec. 13, says DFA

THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN Affairs yesterday confirmed that United States convict and former Manila congressman Mark Jimenez was still in jail in the US and will not be released until Dec. 13.

But DFA spokesperson Bert Asuque said the department had "no comment on the reasons" why Jimenez's release was "postponed."

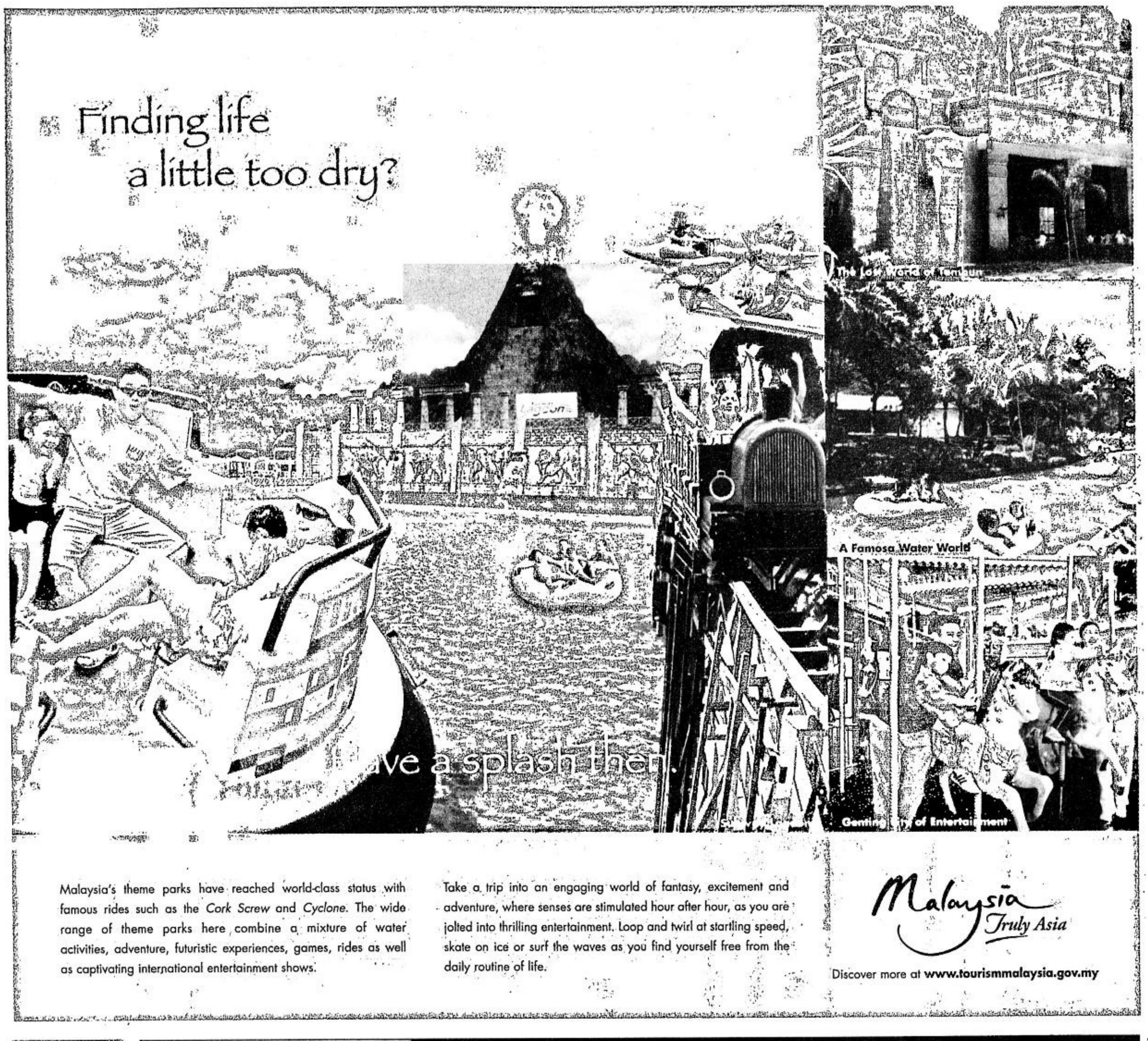
In a 5 p.m. briefing, Asuque said that based on the report of Cecilia Rebong, Philippine consul general in New York, Jimenez was still being held at the Allenwood Federal Correctional Institute in Pennsylvania.

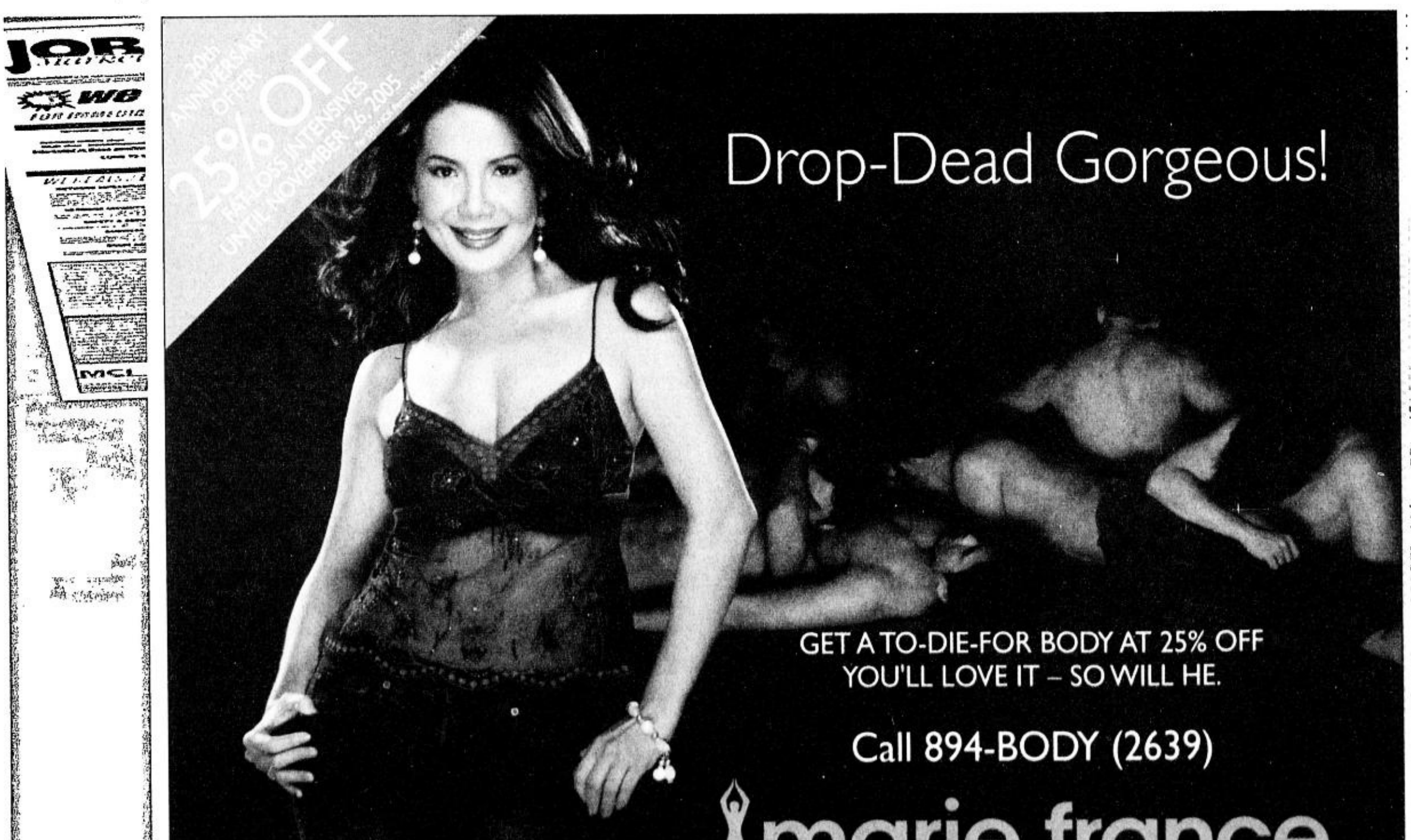
An ABS-CBN report quoting another Philippine consul, Lourdes Legaspi, as saying Jimenez was prevented from leaving the US facility after committing an "infraction" in prison.

Legaspi did not say what exactly the infraction was, according to the report.

The DFA pronouncement in effect belied statements made in Manila by a friend of Jimenez, Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay, that the controversial businessman was just "taking his own sweet time" as to his return to the country.

Jimenez served a 20-month jail sentence for tax fraud and illegal campaign contributions.





If someone lied, let God be the judge, bishop tells flock

ROSALES: Let us be positive.

From page A1

Angel Lagdameo, has been reported as saying that there would be no closure to the controversy triggered by the "Hello Garci" tapes if the administration would not address it squarely.

Lagdameo had earlier said the attempt in the House to impeach Ms Arroyo was foiled mainly by "technicalities" posed by administration lawmakers. He had also condemned the subsequent violent dispersal of anti-Arroyo rallies.

"Let us be positive; let us stress what good the people do," Rosales said. "Let us unite. Let us not be paralyzed by the evil that others do."

Detached approach

Ms Arroyo has been accused of stealing last year's presidential election and lying about it. She has since apologized for the "lapse in judgment" of calling then Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano, but has denied any wrongdoing.

Shortly after Ms Arroyo apologized on national TV on June 27, Rosales issued a pastoral statement saying forgiveness should not be divorced from accountability.

But since then, the archbishop has maintained a detached approach to the crisis.

He kept mum while police were clubbing and hosing down protesters in Manila, his pastoral jurisdiction. When he did speak, he said the authorities were justified in using a water cannon to disperse a prayer rally led by three of his fellow bishops.

Asked yesterday if Ms Arroyo's resignation would end the political crisis, Rosales said: "It won't end. Believe me, [problems] have been there since the time of Cain and Abel. That's why people should go to Jesus Christ, because He put an end to all of these."

Rosales has kept away from public view, focusing instead on visiting impoverished communities and promoting "Pondo ng Pinoy," a poverty-alleviation program of the Church.

Cold shoulder

Speaking of leaving judgments to the Lord, the call for a Church-sponsored breakfast prayer meeting between the President and her political enemies has elicited the cold shoulder from opposition senators.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr., a vocal critic of the President, said in a text message: "I don't think [the organizers] still need me because their prayers may sound discordant to mine: I still want Gloria out.

"GMA needs all the prayers she can get. The question is, will God hear the prayers? Unfortunately, only she can answer that."

But Pimentel conceded that the planned prayer meeting was "not a bad idea."

Sen. Panfilo Lacson said he was not keen on attending the annual Philippine National Prayer Breakfast at the Manila Hotel on Dec. 7, stressing that Ms Arroyo had to first address lingering doubts about the legitimacy of her presidency.

"We have to resolve first a lot of issues before we speak of reconciliation or whatever. We have to clear things up," he told reporters in his Makati City office, citing, among others, the "Hello Garci" scandal.

The Philippine National Prayer Breakfast Foundation led by former Interior Secretary Joey Lina had hoped the prayer meeting would bridge the divide between Ms Arroyo and her critics.

Sincerity

The affair seeks "to touch the hearts and minds" of national leaders "for God and for the good of all the people," former Rep. Jose Ramirez, executive director of the foundation, had said earlier.

But Lacson said he doubted the President would be sincere in mending fences with the opposition.

"We agree to a dialogue, and then her attack dogs will be very busy attacking us. Where's the genuine reconciliation?" Lacson said.

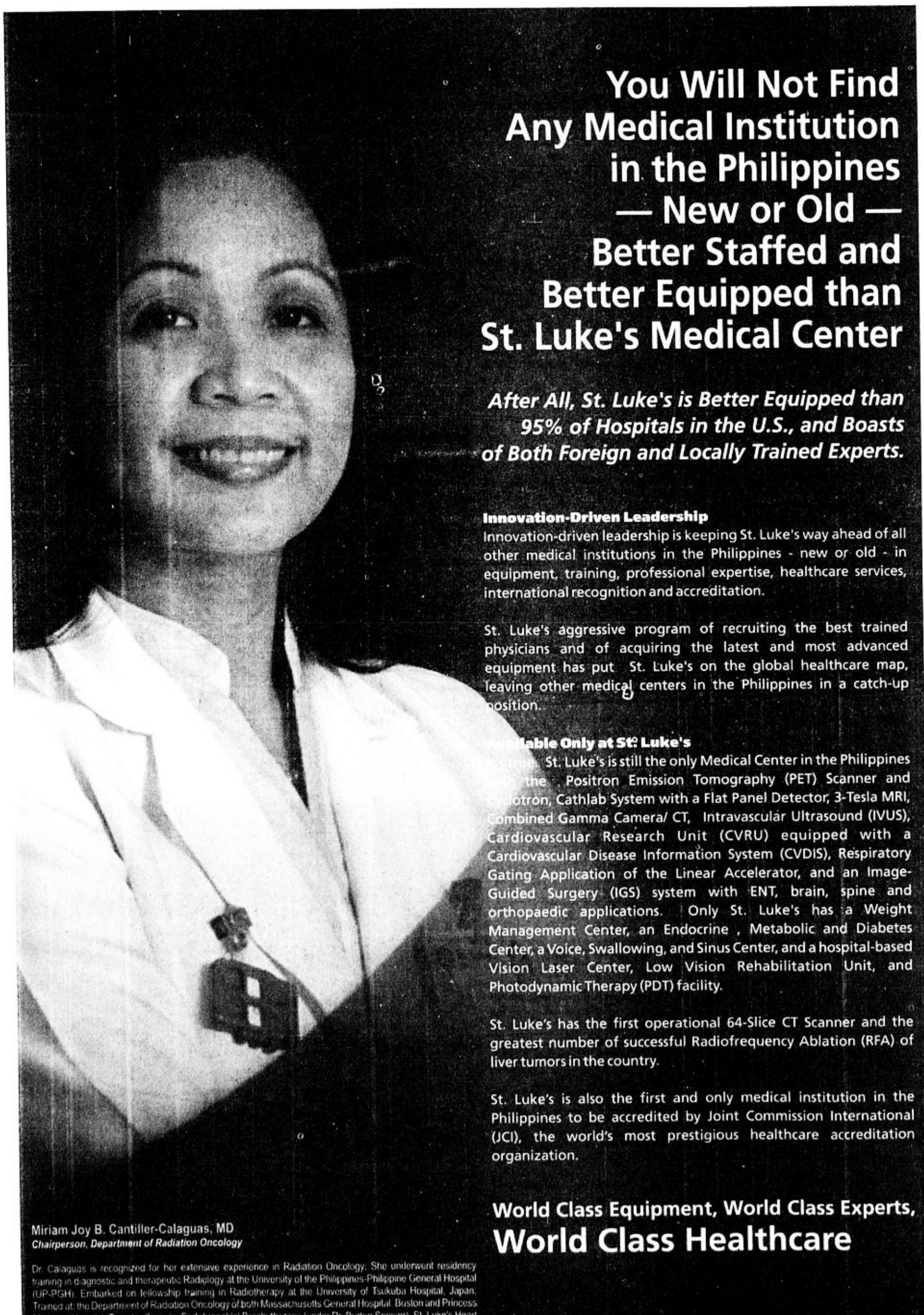
He claimed that Malacañang was poised to turn the tables on the opposition with the reported return of Garcillano.

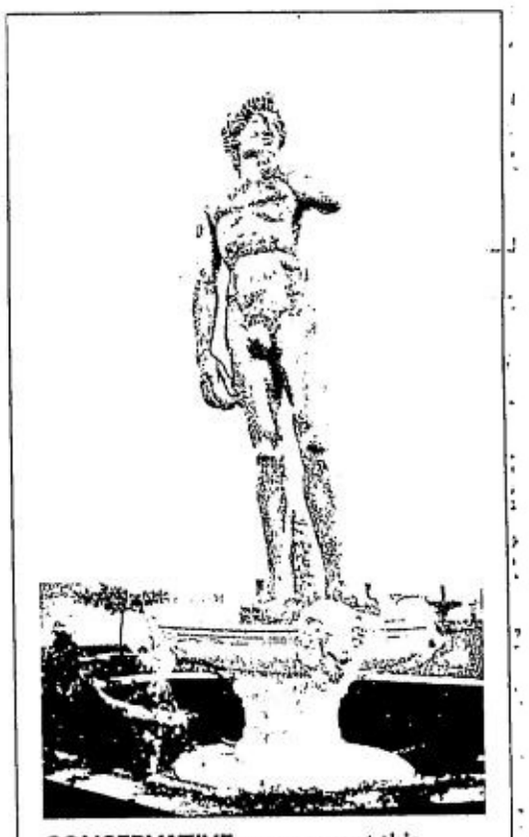
"For instance, why [is Malacañang] planning to launch a counterattack against the opposition? Who benefited from the elections? It was [Ms] Arroyo. This was proven by the ERs (election returns), COCs (certificates of canvass) and several testimonies," he said.

Some members of the opposition have raised the suspicion that Garcillano would clear himself and Ms Arroyo of conspiring to rig the 2004 polls, and instead link the opposition to electoral fraud.

But Senate Majority Floor Leader Francis Pangilinan—who was among those who had called for Ms Arroyo's resignation—was open to the prayer meeting.

"I see nothing wrong with people from opposing sides of the political fence coming together to pray for our nation and our people. I only wish that when we do pray, we do so for the sake of the nation and not for ... selfish ends," he said in a text message. *With reports from TJ Burgonio and Christine Avendaño*





CONSERVATIVE groups want this David statue, a replica of Michaelangelo's 15th century masterpiece, erected on the beachfront of Davao City removed for having a double meaning as it is near a motel.

DENNIS JAY SANTOS / MINDANAO BUREAU

Miriam may . . .

From page A1

60 years old, she would have to sit in the high court for the next 10 years, or until she turns 70, the mandatory retirement age for justices of the court.

In that case, she said the chief justice position would be a "deadend job" for her.

"Of course, I find it attractive but I just cannot see myself sitting as chief justice ... sitting in isolation, surrounded by books. I'll be bored out of my skull," said the outspoken senator.

Obstacle

Santiago said she was also concerned about her moral obligation to the voters who elected her to the Senate as well as the opportunity for an incumbent associate justice to become the chief justice.

"I don't want to serve as an obstacle for the professional rewards that are due the other justices," she said, adding that younger associate justices who have been in the high court a long time expect to at least be given the chance to be appointed to the top.

Santiago said other presidents in the past had offered her the position but she had consistently declined it.

Santiago said there was no obstacle to the appointment of an outsider like herself as chief justice of the Supreme Court.

Second term

Now on her second term as a senator, Santiago is a graduate of the University of the Philippines College of Law and served as a regional trial court judge in Quezon City. She served as agrarian reform secretary and commissioner of the Bureau of Immigration and nearly won the presidential election in 1992.

SC affirms sequestration of Bulletin shares

By Armand N. Nocum

THE SUPREME COURT HAS AFFIRMED A Sandiganbayan ruling forfeiting in favor of government the shares owned by businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr. in the Manila Bulletin newspaper, which the anti-graft court declared was part of the ill-gotten wealth of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

In a unanimous en banc decision written by Justice Dante O. Tinga, the high court also denied three petitions challenging the March 14, 2002 Sandiganbayan ruling.

In the 2002 ruling, the Sandiganbayan declared as "ill-gotten" the 46,626 Bulletin shares of Cojuangco and 198,052.5 shares in the names of Jose Y. Campos, Cojuangco and Cesar Zalamea which had been transferred to HM Holdings and Management Inc. (HMHMI).

The two blocks of shares were sold back to the Bulletin on Feb. 21, 1986 for P19.39 million. The proceeds from the sale were deposited in a bank and frozen by the PCGG.

It was this same P19.39 million, including interest, that was ordered forfeited by the anti-graft court in favor of government.

The SC also affirmed the Sandiganbayan decision declaring as "not ill-gotten" all other Bulletin shares, including the 54,472 shares sold by the late Hans M. Menzi to the US Automotive Co. on May 15, 1985 since the sale was valid and legal.

Also affirmed as "not ill-gotten" were the 2,617 shares held by Bulletin chair Emilio Yap and the "1 Bulletin Share" in the name of the Estate of Hans M. Menzi. These latter two blocks of shares were part of the entire interest of the Bulletin's founder and owner Carson Taylor that Menzi had bought in 1957.

Three petitions were filed with the Supreme Court assailing the 2002 decision of the Sandiganbayan.

Cojuangco challenged the decision declaring as ill-gotten the 46,626 shares in his name and the 198,052.5 shares in his and the names of Campos and Zalamea.

The SC said the Sandiganbayan was right in ruling that "Campos, Cojuangco and Zalamea were nominees and dummies of Marcos, hence the 198,052.5 shares which these nominees transferred to HMHMI and which, in turn, were sold to the Bulletin are ill-gotten wealth."

It said the Sandiganbayan correctly found that the shares in the name of Cojuangco were owned by the Marcoses and not by Cojuangco as a nominee of Menzi.

Cojuangco claimed that he had acquired the Bulletin shares not as a Marcos dummy but as a nominee of Menzi.

But the high court said he did not present any evidence to substantiate his claim.

Peasant leader protests ouster from Cocobank

By Alcuin Papa

A PEASANT LEADER YESTERDAY PROTESTed his ouster from the board of the United Coconut Planters Bank even as farmers' organizations alleged that the move presaged a planned compromise deal between the Presidential Commission on Good Government and businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco.

Vic Fabe, chair of the Pambansang Kilusan ng mga Samahang Magsasaka (Pakisama) based in Quezon province, was replaced as UCPB board director by Alejandro Asis, a nominee of new PCGG chair Camilo Sabio.

Sabio announced on Nov. 14 the appointment of three new UCPB directors to replace Fabe and two others who are all identified with Sabio's predecessor, the late Haydee Yorac.

The other board members who were replaced were Jose Ma. Faustino, executive director of the Coconut Industry Reform Movement (CIRM) and Philippine Peasant Institute executive director Romeo Royandoyan. Faustino was replaced by Datu Mao Andong and Royandoyan by Oscar Solidar.

The three are expected to hand in their resignation at the UCPB board meeting today.

But Fabe protested that his term expires only when a stockholders' meeting elects a new set of officers.

"However, there is no scheduled stockholders meeting yet. Usually this is held every three years," he said.

Fabe said he and his lawyers are studying the option filing a complaint over his removal.

OUT OF GMA'S HANDS

Senators agree to transfer intel funds to intel agencies

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

A BIPARTISAN CAUCUS OF SENATORS HAS reached an agreement to transfer President Macapagal-Arroyo's intelligence funds to the intelligence agencies of the police and military, Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. claimed yesterday.

Pimentel said the senators reached a consensus that the intelligence funds, amounting to P600 million, under the control of the Office of the President, should be placed where they "properly belong" — the Armed Forces, the Philippine National Police, the National Bureau of Investigation and the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency.

This will mean that the entire P1.2 billion in government intelligence funds will be in the hands of the military and the police.

Senate President Franklin Drilon said the senators who attended the caucus were "receptive" to the idea of depriving the President of the intelligence funds but that a formal Senate position would not be reached until the House submits the 2006 budget bill to the upper chamber.

"Personally I am in favor of this but I cannot say there is already a Senate action because we still have to wait for the budget from the House," Drilon said.

Pimentel said it was time to put a stop to the "unconscionable practice" of putting half of the government's P1.2 billion intelligence funds in the Office of the President while the law enforcement agencies perennially complain of inadequate funds for intelligence-gathering.

He said the huge intelligence funds, which are not subject to audit, at its disposal could easily tempt Malacañang to use the money for partisan political activities.

Drilon said the senators concurred with the idea of transferring the President's intelligence funds to the AFP and the PNP because these are the ones principally in charge of gathering intelligence.

But he said the President can still realign the funds even if these are transferred by Congress.

Senators questioned Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita about the P650 million intelligence funds of the Office of the President during the hearing on Malacañang's proposed P3.5 billion budget for next year.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said the OP's budget for intelligence was twice more than the combined intelligence funds of the AFP and PNP combined. He said the AFP is allotted P111 million while the PNP has about P270 million or a total of P381 million.

Ermita said of the P650 million, only P150 million goes to the OP while P500 million goes to the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force.

Biazon said the intelligence funds of the OP might be used for items or services that are subject to regular audit but are classified by Malacañang as part of the intelligence funds.

Senate prefers Con-com to Con-Ass

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

THE SENATE WILL NOT JUNK THE CHARter change resolution set to be approved by the House of Representatives, Senate President Franklin Drilon said yesterday.

But Drilon reiterated that majority of the 23 senators are not in favor of amending the charter through a constituent assembly, consisting of the Senate and House members themselves, which is the mode espoused by the House.

He also warned the House that it cannot proceed with charter change without the participation and concurrence of the Senate.

Drilon said most senators don't want a constituent assembly, recalling that at least 14 senators have signed a resolution calling for a constitutional convention composed of elected delegates.

"Let me reiterate our position: We are not against Charter Change per se. We believe the 1987 Constitution is not perfect and can stand some improvement," Drilon said.

Drilon made the statement to allay fears from the House that the Senate will unceremoniously junk its resolution calling for a constituent assembly to change the form of government from presidential to parliamentary. He also gave the same assurance to the presidential Constitutional Commission, whose recommendations jibe with the House position.

MESSAGES

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

My warmest felicitations to the Philippine Academy of Medical Specialists (PAMS) as you hold your *11th Annual Convention.*

Your theme *'PAMS: Making a Difference'* is in line with our efforts to further increase the 69 million beneficiaries of the healthcare services throughout the country. Through the re-enrollment program of 30 million indigents under our Administration's health insurance system, we have provided the most impoverished among us with access to quality healthcare.

I urge you to join me in various initiatives to increase the participation of medical specialists in enhancing our people's access to better healthcare and services. Let us use the maladies that ail our society by seeking an end to divisiveness and too much partisan politics and focus on the wellness and happiness of our families as the key to happier and more stable future.

I wish you more fruitful endeavors in the years to come.

More power and Mabuhay kayong lahat!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO

MANILA
28 November 2005

Warmest greetings to the officers and members of the Philippine Academy of Medical Specialists (PAMS) on the holding of their 2005 Annual Convention entitled PAMS: Making a Difference'

Your continuing commitment to health is essential in our quest for a better and an improved quality of life for all. With your outstanding achievements and excellent performance we can intensify our efforts and enable us to gain momentum and attain our vision of a health and productive citizenry the soonest possible time.

This event will also ensure the members the opportunity to broaden their knowledge and skills through the experiences shared by various specialists in the field of medicine.

May you remain actively involved and continue to support our government's health programs designed to uplift the lives of our countrymen though accessible, quality and affordable health for all.

Congratulations and *Mabuhay kayong lahat!*

FRANCISCO T. DUQUE III, M.D., MSc.
Secretary of Health

The Philippine Medical Association (PMA) extends its warm greetings to all the delegates and participants to the 11th Annual Convention of the Philippine Academy of Medical Specialists, Inc.

Your convention theme *"PAMS: Making a Difference"* is very relevant to the time. As PMA accelerates its thrust in policing its own ranks, and turning every member of the medical profession into compassionate and competent practitioners, PAMS can help fill the gap in attaining this objective. PAMS can really make this big difference.

PMA joins you on your convention and wishes that you have a very productive and successful one.

MODESTO O. LLAMAS, M.D., F.P.C.S., F.A.C.S.
President - Philippine Medical Association

PHILIPPINE ACADEMY OF MEDICAL SPECIALISTS

PAMS: Making A Difference

11th Academy Meeting 2005 Annual Convention November 27, 28 & 29, 2005
Crowne Plaza Galleria Manila, Ortigas Avenue corner ADB Avenue, Quezon City

On behalf of the organizing committee of PAMS 11th Annual Academy Meeting, I extend my cordial welcome to every one of you. I can't hardly express my deepest appreciation to you for your cooperation and support to this convention at this moment especially to those who have untiringly traveled from distant places of the country. Without your utmost cooperation and support, this event may not have been successful!

The theme of our convention, "PAMS, Making a Difference," puts more emphasis on continuing medical education and continues to provide its goal in the never-ending need to learn and grow.

We have invited master speakers to talk on exciting topics which include relevant issues in the practice of our profession today, and I believe you will find this convention academically-rewarding. Meantime, we have also arranged social programs for you, including poster presentations from each local chapter, golf tournament, bowling and badminton competitions.

Again, thank you very much for your cooperation and support. I hope you will be enjoying this convention both academically and socially.

MIGUEL T. OCAMPO, MD, FPAMS
National President
Philippine Academy of Medical Specialists

Being this year's convention chairman, it is my honor and great privilege to welcome you to the 11th Academy Meeting of the Philippine Academy of Medical Specialists. In the next three days, expect exciting insights from our broad list of speakers who will talk on issues directly affecting the practice of medicine. Concerns regarding HMOs, Philhealth and avian flu are going to be tackled. Also this year, we have separated the scientific lectures into the different specialties of Pediatrics, Obstetrics-Gynecology, Surgery and Medicine to give you a broader choice of what topics to listen to and interact with. We have also lined up for you, social activities like the fellowship night and sports activities — like golf, badminton and bowling for your enjoyment.

PAMS is a young but rapidly growing medical organization. We still expect many changes to come in the future ... changes for growth and changes for improvement. We, therefore encourage everyone to stay focused and take a step of faith, trusting in God Almighty so that He may use each and every one of us to make a difference in the lives of our patients, our fellow doctors and this beloved nation of ours.

Welcome everyone..... To God, be the glory.

RENE C. CATAN, MD
Over-all Convention Chairperson

Program of Activities

Convention Proper

Day 1 Sunday, November 27
Pre-Convention Activities
6:00 AM - 2:00 PM
4th PAMS President's Cup Golf Tournament
Veterans MMC Golf Course
Badminton Tournament
Hemady Courts, Quezon City
2:00 PM Registration (Crowne Plaza)
6:00 PM Bowling Tournament
Paeng's Bowling Lanes
Robinson's Galleria

Day 2 Monday, November 28
7:00 AM Registration
7:30 Thanksgiving Mass
10:00 Opening Ceremonies
Keynote Address by
Hon. Eduardo C. Firmalo
12:00 NN – 1:00 PM
Sanofi-Aventis Luncheon Symposium
"Optimizing Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia Management"
Speaker: Dennis P. Serrano, MD
Moderator: Wilfredo S. Tagle, MD
1:00-1:30 PM
"GSIS Hospital Support Program: What's it all About?"
Speaker: Elmer G. Punzalan, MD
1:40-2:10 PM
"Shared Visions, Common Benchmarks: Access to Quality Health Care of All Filipinos"
Speaker: Eduardo P. Banzon, MD, MSc
2:20-2:50 PM
"Pharmacovigilance"
Speaker: Kenneth Hartigan-Go, MD
3:00-3:30 PM
"DOH Program for the Disabled & The Elderly/Avian Flu"
Speaker: Ismael S. Pastor, MD
3:40-4:10 PM
"Health Development to Attain Happiness"
Speaker: Iwan Soetjahja, MD, MPH
4:20–4:50 PM
Topic on HMO - TBA
Speaker: Ernesto V. Benesa, MD
5:00-5:30 PM
"Building Your Legacy"
Speaker: Mr. Enrique G. Sarthou
5:30-6:30 PM
Conferment Ceremonies for Diplomates
6:30-7:30 PM Unilab Symposium
"Economics of Disease Management"
Speaker: Jonas D. Policarpio, MD
7:30 PM Dinner/Business Meeting
8:30 PM Fellowship Night

Day 3 Tuesday, November 29
8:00 AM - 12:00 NN
Simultaneous Scientific Lectures per specialty
Dermatology * General Surgery * Infectious Disease * Internal Medicine * Obstetrics & Gynecology * Orthopedics * Pediatrics * Urology
12:00 NN-1:00 PM
Lunch/Business Meeting (Elections)
1:00 PM – 4:00 PM
Conferment Ceremonies for Fellows
Guest Speaker:
Jaime Z. Galvez Tan, MD, MPH
Induction of Newly Elected Officers
Inducting Officer:
Francisco T. Duque III, MD, MSc
Secretary, Department of Health
Closing Ceremony

Unity - Knowledge - Service

2005 EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

President	- MIGUEL T. OCAMPO, MD
Vice-President	- WILLIAM B. DY, MD
Secretary	- FRESCO B. YAPENDON, MD
Treasurer	- BENITO H. RAMOS, JR.,MD
Auditor	- NICANOR F. ESCUTIN,MD
PRO	- MONA LISA F. COSME, MD

BOARD of TRUSTEES

Ramon O. Benjamin Jr.,MD
Jesus D. Canto, MD
Francis M. Capalongan, MD
Leonardo M. Castillo, MD
Rene C. Catan, MD
Roselyn L. Dadural, MD
Alfredo M. Del Castillo, MD
Charles P. Fabian, MD
Angelo B. Juan, MD
Alfonso P. Llamas, Jr., MD
Jose Artemio E. Luat, MD
Federico A. Malubay, MD
Imelda Marie F. Palacol, MD
Ulysses T. Quanico, MD

2005 CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

Roland A. Tioplanco, MD	Quezon
Sylvia P. Ramilo, MD	Batangas
Delfin P. Gubatan, Jr., MD	Pangasinan
Jose Artemio E. Luat, MD	Metro Manila
Teodoro M. Santos, MD	Cavite
Mona Lisa F. Cosme, MD	Sta. Cruz, Laguna
Jovino R. Chumacera, MD	San Pablo City, Laguna
Normita O. Villarico, MD	Isabela
Napoleon A. Obaña, MD	Nueva Vizcaya
Gaudencio G. Albano, MD	Camarines Norte
Jose Dante Galvines, MD	Panay Island
Marvin S. Martinez, MD	La Union
Jesus B. Tomas, MD	Ilocos
Ronaldo L. Iremedio, MD	Metro Manila South
Ma. Cristina B. Seares, MD	Abra
Rosalinda O. Jambaro, MD	Kalinga
Roman T. Pinson, MD	Cagayan
Jose A. Tribiana, MD	Metro Manila North
Nestor B. Lumicao, MD	Cagayan de Oro
Dennis S. Lagunay, MD	Leyte-Samar
Roland L. Uy, MD	Iloilo

Peso rallies to 54.17 vs dollar

From page A1

Traders said that after the peso broke the 54.20 barrier yesterday, it gave up some gains as the lower exchange rate attracted buyers, in turn offsetting the strong inflows from overseas Filipino workers.

The demand for dollars came from companies with debt payment and import requirements, which found buying opportunities at levels below 54.25 to the dollar, the traders said.

Too fast, too soon

Some banks also covered their short positions on the dollar, thus slowing down the peso's ascent.

"Some traders probably think that a fall that's too fast and too soon is not good," a trader with a local bank said.

But even as the peso finished flat at 54.30, it was still trading at a six-month high since ending at 54.20 on May 13.

The currency yesterday moved between 54.17 and 54.32 against the greenback and averaged 54.239 compared with the previous session's average of P54.338.

Still on uptrend

The volume of dollars traded amounted to $547 million, down from Wednesday's $667.7 million.

The peso is still on an uptrend although the local currency may succumb to profit-taking from time to time, dealers said.

The peso is expected to trade between 54.10 and 54.40 against the greenback today.

"Technically, the dollar is neither here not there. There's no strong signal yet to continue selling," another trader said.

The peso's low correlation to the Japanese yen compared with other Asian currencies also left it with less downside risk if the yen's slide against the dollar continued, according to Jalinoos.

High interest rates

Analysts say high interest rates have raised demand for Philippine assets in a market thirsting for yield.

Jalinoos said the peso could head for levels around 54 per dollar unless the authorities intervened to cap the currency.

"There is room for more gains. The only real barrier at this juncture could be the central bank, if they think it has gone too far," he said.

In the secondary market for Philippine treasury bonds, yields were lower on ample liquidity and positive sentiments spurred by recent improvement in the government's fiscal performance.

The five-year T-bond yield was quoted at 10.239 percent compared with Wednesday's 10.379 percent. *With a report from Reuters*

ASIA'S BEST PERFORMER, the peso, is now at its highest level since May 13, thanks to remittances from OFWs and the country's improving fiscal position. REUTERS

wilcon.com.ph

Just think of what double your money can do!

Money Back raffle 2

Now bigger and better!
You can win up to
₱200,000
every week!

- For every ₱1,000 purchase, you get a raffle coupon. Fill out and drop in drop boxes at Wilcon. Keep your sales invoice.
- There will be one winner per draw. The prize is a refund worth DOUBLE the amount of purchases made at Wilcon – or a maximum of ₱200,000 in cash.
- Raffle draws will be held at the Wilcon Builder's Depot Main Office in Libis, Quezon City, 10:00 AM, on the following dates:

Sept. 28, 2005	Oct. 26, 2005	Nov. 23, 2005
Oct. 5, 2005	Nov. 2, 2005	Nov. 30, 2005
Oct. 12, 2005	Nov. 9, 2005	Dec. 7, 2005
Oct. 19, 2005	Nov. 16. 2005	Dec. 17, 2005

- Promo is from September 16 to December 15, 2005.

See flyers for details.

WILCON DEPOT
WILCON SUPPLY
Build anything. We have everything.

WILCON BUILDERS' DEPOT:

Libis 90 E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Ugong Norte, Libis, QC (formerly Uniwide) Trunkline: 634-8387/ Tel: 634-8381 to 86/ Fax: 633-9331
Alabang 8003 Real St., Alabang Zapote Rd., Las Piñas City (across Toyota Alabang) Trunkline: 809-9106/ Tel: 809-7866, 809-9481, 809-9106, 772-0312 to 14 Fax: 772-0311, 772-0315
Balintawak 1274 EDSA, Balintawak, QC (before Dist. Limtuaco) Trunkline: 362-8521/ Tel: 362-4531, 362-8268 to 83
Pasong Tamo 2212 Pasong Tamo, Makati City (beside Cityland Tower, In front of Don Bosco Chapel) - Tel: 893-3120, 893-3127, 893-3142, 893-3172/ Fax: 893-3108

WILCON BUILDERS' SUPPLY:

Muñoz 1064 EDSA, QC – 926-1504, 921-3342
Quezon Ave. QC – 712-3673
Las Piñas Las Piñas City – 807-8233
Ortigas 225 EDSA, East Greenhills – 727-6064
Pasay EDSA, Pasay City – 832-9242
Quirino QC – 935-9653
Libis QC – 637-5623
Mindanao Ave. QC – 455-8566
Davao Matina, Davao City. – (082) 297-9652

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2070 Series of 2005

Spacious units, Spectacular views, Central location...

VALENCIA HILLS
Open Space in the City

Valencia cor. N. Domingo Sts. Quezon City

- Move in at 20%
- as low as P23,888 per month
- De luxe 3BR units available

FEDERALAND
725-8808

D.I.Y.
Lock + Key
Canon
Delighting You Always

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

UK warns media on Jazeera 'plot'

LONDON—BRITAIN HAS WARNED MEDIA ORganizations they are breaking the law if they publish details of a leaked document said to show US President George W. Bush wanted to bomb Arabic television station al-Jazeera.

The government's top lawyer warned editors in a note after the Daily Mirror newspaper reported on Tuesday that a secret British government memo said Prime Minister Tony Blair had talked Bush out of bombing the broadcaster in April last year.

Several British newspapers reported the attorney general's note on Wednesday and repeated the Mirror's allegations, which the White House said were "so outlandish" they did not merit a response. Blair's office declined to comment.

Al-Jazeera, which has repeatedly denied US accusations it sides with insurgents in Iraq, called on Britain and the United States to state quickly whether the report was accurate.

"If the report is correct then this would be both shocking and worrisome not only to al-Jazeera but to media organizations across the world," the Qatar-based station said in a statement.

The story would also be a shock for Qatar, a small Gulf state which cultivates good relations with Washington.

Reporters' rights groups called on the United States and Britain to promptly give clarification of the report.

"This is a very serious charge with grave implications for the safety of media professionals," said Ann Cooper, executive director of the Committee to Protect Journalists. "Refusing to address these reports in a substantive way only fuels suspicions."

Reporters Without Borders said: "We find it hard to believe that President Bush really discussed this possibility. This would be extremely serious and would constitute a major and unprecedented violation of the right to information.

"If this report turns out to be true, it offers a new insight into the motives of the US forces, which have already bombed al-Jazeera offices twice, in Afghanistan and Iraq."

The Mirror said the memo came from Blair's Downing Street office and turned up in May last year at the local office of Tony Clarke, then a member of parliament for the town of Northampton. Clarke handed the document back to the government.

Leo O'Connor, who used to work for Clarke, and civil servant David Keogh were charged last Thursday under Britain's Official Secrets Act with making a "damaging disclosure of a document relating to international relations."

The Mirror said Bush told Blair at a White House summit on April 16 last year that he wanted to target al-Jazeera. The summit took place as US forces in Iraq were launching a major assault on the insurgent stronghold of Fallujah.

The paper quoted an unnamed government official suggesting Bush's threat was a joke but added another unidentified source saying the US president was serious.

White House spokesperson Scott McClellan said: "We are not interested in dignifying something so outlandish and inconceivable with a response." *Reuters*

MISHIMA BEFORE 'SEPUKKU'
This Nov. 25, 1970 picture shows Japanese author Yukio Mishima speaking before Japanese Self-Defense Force soldiers at Tokyo's military garrison station. Nov. 25, 2005 marks the 35th anniversary of when Mishima sliced open his own stomach in a ritual "sepukku" disembowelment suicide after delivering a speech from the balcony. AFP

Australia faces worker shortfall due to aging

CANBERRA—AUSTRALIA'S TIGHT labor market will be stretched even further by a marked slowdown in growth in the working-age population that could exacerbate skill shortages in coming years, a government report said on Thursday.

The report from the employment ministry, at a time when the government is struggling to win support for labor market reform, said there could be a shortfall of 195,000 workers over the next five years as a result of the aging of the population.

"As the population ages, skills shortages could become even more acute, particularly in industries where there is already a high proportion of older workers," said the report, titled Workforce Tomorrow.

The unemployment rate hit a 29-year low of 5.0 percent in the middle of the year and now stands at 5.2 percent. The labor market tightness has led to a shortage of workers in sectors as diverse as engineering, health and accounting.

The report said the number of people employed hit a record high of more than 10 million in July 2005.

Australia's central bank has identified the tight jobs market as an area that could prompt it to raise interest rates if excessive wages growth threatens its view that underlying inflation will be restrained. *Reuters*

Chemical blast pollutes major river in China

HARBIN, CHINA—A CHEMICAL plant explosion has severely polluted one of China's biggest rivers, the government said Wednesday, causing water supplies to be cut for millions of people and sparking pollution fears in neighboring Russia.

The explosion at a PetroChina factory in the northeastern province of Jilin led to an outpouring of the carcinogen benzene into the 1,897-kilometer-long Songhua river, the Environmental Protection Administration (EPA) said.

"After the blast at the chemical plant the monitoring station in Jilin found that benzene went into the river and polluted the water," the EPA said in a statement on its website.

"Benzene levels were 108 times above national safety levels."

The announcement came 10 days after the Nov. 13 explosion and followed repeated denials from government officials that there had been any major environmental impact.

In Harbin, the capital of neighboring Heilongjiang province about 380 kilometers downstream from the blast site, water supplies were cut off at midnight on Tuesday over the pollution fears, the local government said.

The Songhua is the main source of drinking water for more than three million urban residents of Harbin, which has a total population of about nine million and is one of China's biggest cities.

The EPA said the pollutants in the water were expected to hit Harbin around 5 a.m. on Thursday, although the contaminants would be diluted.

Xinhua news agency quoted government sources as saying that Harbin needs 1,400 tons of active carbon to purify the contaminated water in the Songhua but is currently 700 tons short. *AFP*

Korean stem cell pioneer says sorry for ethics lapses

SEOUL—SOUTH KOrean cloning pioneer Hwang Woo-suk resigned his official posts Thursday to take responsibility for ethical violations by his team during landmark research to create the first cloned human embryo.

HWANG AFP

Hwang said that researchers in his team had donated their own eggs without his permission and that other women were paid for eggs used in his breakthrough project, also without his knowledge.

Hwang, a Korean national hero and the first man to clone a human embryo, admitted that he had lied when ethical questions began to surface last year about the origin of the supply of human eggs available to his researchers.

"I feel so sorry to speak about such shameful and miserable things to you people," he told a press conference in his first public comments on a scandal that has been brewing for months.

"I again sincerely apologize for having caused concern at home and abroad."

Hwang said he was resigning all official posts including the chairmanship of a new research body, the World Stem Cell Hub, established last month by the government to produce stem cell lines here for research institutes worldwide.

But Hwang said he would continue his own trailblazing research and retained the backing of the government, which earlier Thursday said he had done nothing wrong.

"There were no breaches of legal or ethical standards in the course of obtaining human eggs for the research," said a spokesperson for the Ministry of Health and Welfare.

Hwang and his team in February 2004 announced the first-ever cloning of human embryos, from which they harvested "therapeutic" embryonic stem cells. This year they unveiled the world's first cloned dog. *AFP*

Poisoned river shows dark side of China's boom

By Emma Graham-Harrison

BEIJING—AS DEAD FISH FLOATED down Harbin's poisoned river and queues of residents waited for safe water in the northern Chinese city, top leaders met in Beijing to discuss tackling the country's "grim" environmental record.

Years of promoting economic growth at almost any price, both to tackle poverty and ensure the stability the Communist Party believes will help it stay in power, have sent environmental conditions plunging even as living standards rose.

Harbin's troubles were caused by an explosion at a petrochemical plant up-river, which spilt cancer-causing toxins into the water, but is symptomatic of wider problems.

China's water is dirty or vanishing—70 percent of its rivers are contaminated, over a third of the country is plagued by acid rain, and in the past 50 years it has lost more than 1,000 lakes, the official Xinhua agency says.

Its skies are choked too. Home to seven of the world's 10 most polluted cities, its urban smog causes over 400,000 early deaths a year, the International Energy Agency says.

Factory and power stations often ignore environmental rules in the hunt for profits or market share, pumping effluent into rivers or skies, while even those who fit equipment to process waste sometimes leave it unused to cut costs.

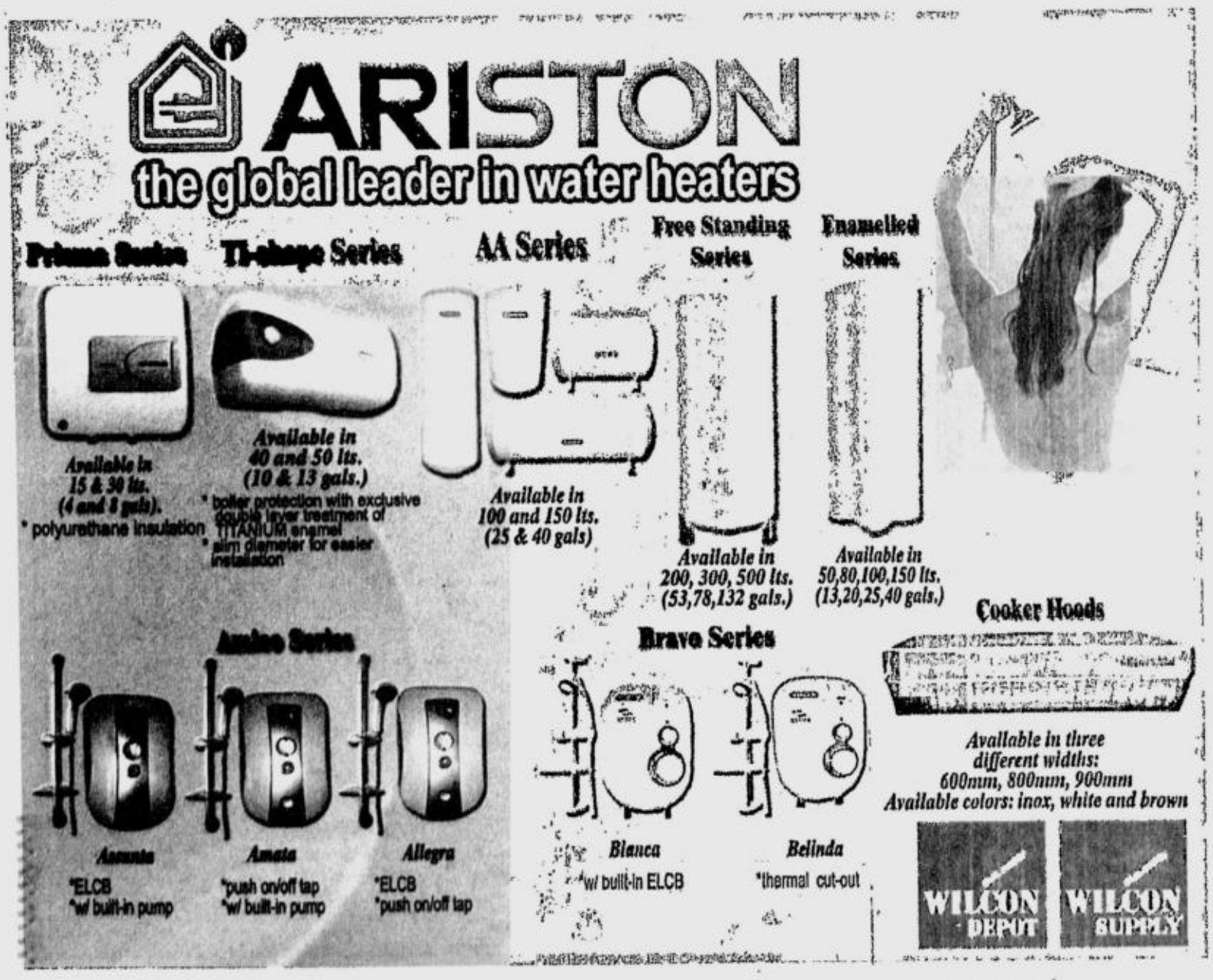
Others run equipment for too long, risking accidents from human error or faltering machinery.

This may be particularly tempting in the petrochemical sector, which supplies the building blocks of everything from fertilizer to drugs, and is racing to keep up with demand.

Imports are high and multinational firms like Germany's BASF are pouring billions of dollars into Chinese plants.

"The Chinese system has its standards to follow and they argue that these are comparable to international levels," said analyst Victor Shum at Purvin & Gertz in Singapore.

"I think this is true, but the question is how closely on a day-to-day basis you follow those rules. Where you're under a lot of pressure there may be a temptation to cut corners." *Reuters*



'Iron Lady' Africa's first elected woman president

MONROVIA—Liberia's "Iron Lady," former Finance Minister Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, became Africa's first elected woman head of state on Wednesday, promising to stamp out corruption and rebuild her shattered country.

SIRLEAF REUTERS

Liberia's electoral commission declared the Harvard-trained economist winner of a Nov. 8 presidential runoff after she took almost 60 percent of the valid votes, beating soccer millionaire George Weah's 40 percent.

"The election of Africa's first democratically elected female president is historic ... I promise that I will conduct myself and the affairs of the country in a manner that brings pride to the women of Liberia, Africa and even the world," Johnson-Sirleaf said in comments broadcast live on radio.

"The election marks the end of an era. An era of political and social exclusion. We will create and formulate an inclusive government, I promise you that," said the 67-year-old president-elect, dressed in a maroon African robe and headcloth.

Hundreds of cheering, singing and dancing supporters of the woman Liberians call "Iron Lady" and "Mama Ellen" celebrated outside Johnson-Sirleaf's home and the headquarters of her Unity Party, bringing traffic to a standstill.

"Mama Ellen ... is now the president. I'm happy," said 58-year-old Amos Nangde, wearing a paper hat made from one of her campaign posters.

Liberia's electoral authorities confirmed Johnson-Sirleaf's win by a wide margin even though they were still investigating a formal complaint from Weah, 39, that the polls were fraudulent.

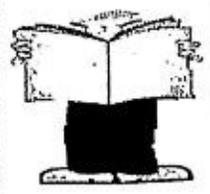
Supporters of the former AC Milan striker, who has a strong following among mostly young Liberians, staged street protests last week, some of which turned into clashes with police.

International observers had praised the elections, the first since the end of a 14-year civil war in the West African state, as free, fair and peaceful. Foreign observers and 15,000 United Nations troops and police supervised the polls.

Weah's Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) party said it would continue to contest the election result. *Reuters*

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Where you find the best.



VISIT US AT www.jobmarketonline.com

Dilat kuwago sa gabi?

Take LEIZENZI regularly!

HOW TO USE PROPERLY : 2-3 caps 3x a day for 7 - 14 days for starter dose until sleeping pattern is established, then maintain 2 caps daily

May tulog ka!

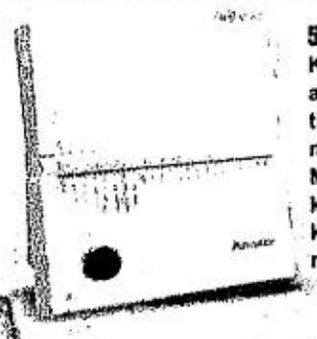
mercury drug

Better Herbs Inc. 723 4376, 721 4376 or text (0918) 934 9347

Pulmo-Aide NEBULIZER • COMPRESSOR by DeVILBISS

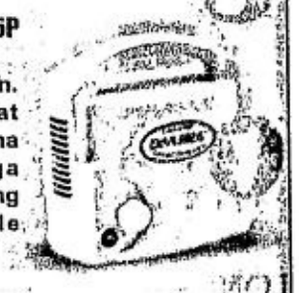
SA TIBAY, SA GINHAWA,

Hika'y walang KAWALA.



5650P
Kilala sa pagbibigay ng mabisang aerosol treatment sa loob ng mahigit 30 taon, ang Devilbiss Pulmo-Aide ay madaling gamitin at napakatibay. Makakaasa ka sa kalidad na walang kapantay at serbisyong pangmatagalan kaya naman ito'y tinaguriang world's most prescribed nebulizer.

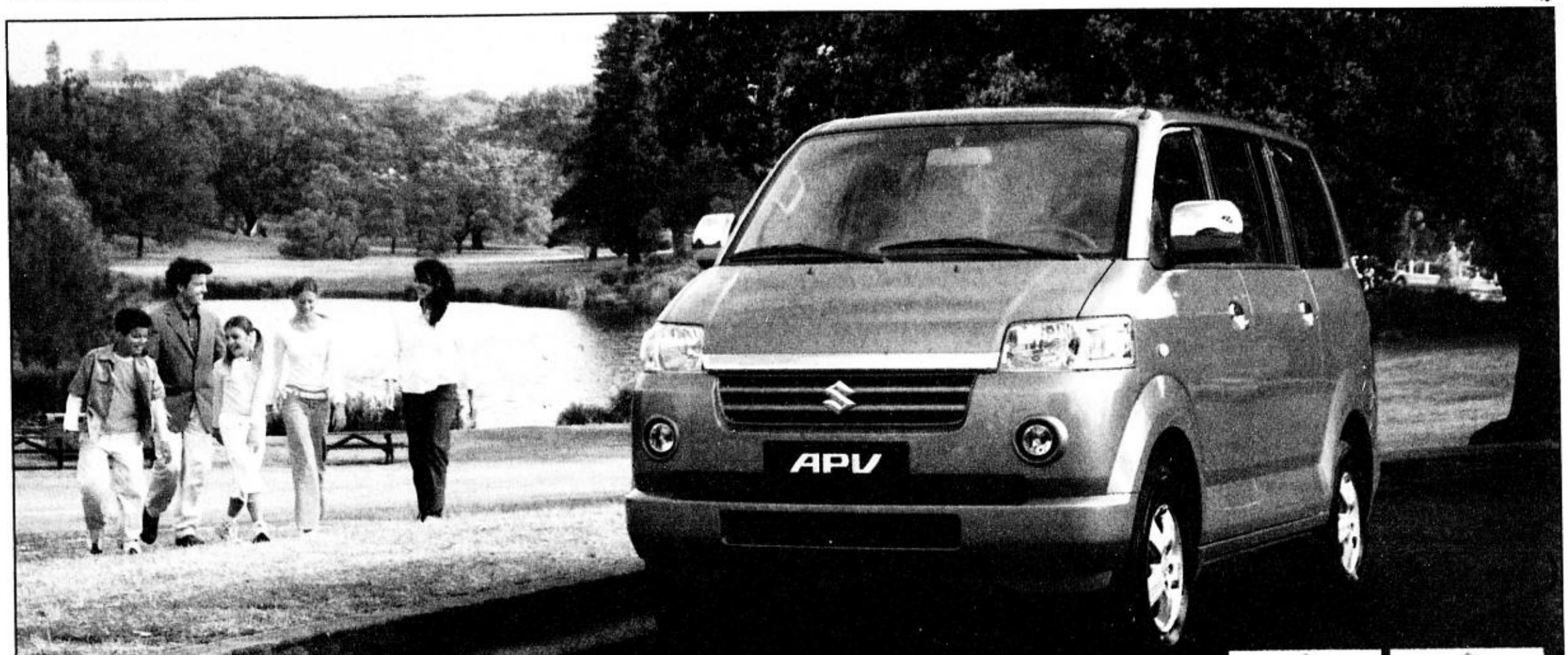
3655P
Epektibo at abot-kaya, ang ay maaasahan kahit saan man. Ito ay napakadaling gamitin at nagtataglay ng 5-taong warranty, na sadyang inilaan para sa mga naghahanap ng de-kalidad at mabisang lunas mula sa isang portable compressor nebulizer.



Exclusively Distributed by:
medical center trading corporation
Pioneer St., cor Shaw Blvd., Pasig City
Tels. 631-1715 • 631-9355 • 637-9504
Fax: (0632) 631-7869
E-mail: medcen@info.com

MANILA: 711-8374
PASIG: 31-1715
LIPA: (043) 757-2051
PAMPANGA: (045) 961-7892
CAGAYAN DE ORO: (808) 856-8199
CEBU: (32) 254-2367
DAVAO: (082) 222-4404
ILOILO: (033) 320-1413
URDANETA: (075) 568-7390

Available at mercury drug Stores Nationwide



The All New Suzuki APV
All-purpose value
All-round fun

2 years free service 20,000 kms.
3 years warranty 100,000 kms.

Come see us!

Mobile Living Fair

New Family Wagon

Muscle and elegance. Sleek and refined.

Snub nose and oversized bumpers define the stability and dynamism of the new Suzuki AVP. Accented with headlights and tail lamps that are mounted higher than normal for better visibility.

Styling carries through inside. The cabin offers 3 rows of folding type seats to accommodate 6-8 passengers with enough space for cargo.

The Suzuki APV is powered by 16-valve, SOHC, 1.6 litre engine generating ample torque for less fuel. For safety, the van is built using its patented TECT (Total Effective Control Technology). Ground clearance and the air intake is on high position to propel the van's ability to traverse rough roads, steep climbs, and flooded streets.

Suzuki APV deserves a serious look from practical thinking families wanting to have fun.

SRP F.O.B. Manila GLX-AT - Php 750,000 • GL-MT Php 620,000

APV Mobile living

SUZUKI Way of Life!

METRO MANILA
SUZUKI AUTO COMMONWEALTH
43 Commonwealth Ave., Quezon City
951-2201 to 10
SUZUKI AUTO EDSA
EDSA cor. Madison St., Mandaluyong City
634-3451 to 57
SUZUKI AUTO MAKATI
G / F Smith Bell Bldg., 2294 Don Chino Roces Ave., Ext., Makati City
816-4097
SUZUKI AUTO QUEZON AVENUE
1142 Quezon Ave., Quezon City
374-39-11 / 411-27-20
SUZUKI AUTO SHAW
411 Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City
718-1834 to 35

LUZON
SUZUKI AUTO CABANATUAN
Maharlika Highway, Cabanatuan City
(044) 463-5248 / 463-0089
SUZUKI AUTO DAGUPAN
National Highway, Ambonao, Calasiao, Pangasinan
(075) 517-17-17 / 8888 / 9999
SUZUKI AUTO LEGASPI
408 Rizal St., Cabangan, Legaspi City
(054) 472-3577 to 79 / 472-3659
SUZUKI AUTO PAMPANGA
Olongapo-Gapan Road City of San Fernando, Pampanga
(045) 860-5971

VISAYAS
SUZUKI AUTO BACOLOD
Manor Bldg., Araneta St., Singcang, Bacolod City
(034) 435-0268
SUZUKI AUTO CEBU
CDO Foodsphere Bldg., A. S. Fortuna St., Banilad, Mandaue City
(032) 345-8893 / (032) 345-0507
SUZUKI AUTO ILOILO
Tabuk, Suba, Iloilo City
(033) 320-9843

MINDANAO
SUZUKI AUTO CAGAYAN DE ORO
Mindanao Motor Compound Corrales Ave., Cagayan de Oro City
(088) 227-26357
SUZUKI AUTO DAVAO
Bo. Pampanga, Sasa, Davao City
(082) 233-1140 / 234-0390
SUZUKI AUTO ZAMBOANGA
Veterans Ave. cor. Tomas Claudio St., Zamboanga City
(062) 991-1492 / 991-1126

www.suzuki.com.ph

Style. Urban Living. Pop Culture. Entertainment. Recreation.
EVERY SATURDAY WITH THE INQUIRER

D.I.Y.
Digital Camera + Selphy

Develop-It-Yourself
is now possible with the Canon Selphy Photo Developer.

P12

Canon
Delighting You Always

SELPHY
DIGITAL PHOTO DEVELOPER
FREE YOUR IMAGES

Insist on an original warranty issued by Canon Marketing (Philippines), Inc
Canon Marketing (Philippines), Inc. 2F Marvin Plaza, 2153 Don Chino Roces Avenue cor. V.A. Rufino St., Makati City
Tel.: 884-9000 • Fax 810-9797• info@canon.com.ph • www.canon.com.ph
METRO MANILA: Abenson • Ambassador • Anson Emporium • Automatic Center • BCG Computers • Brentcom • Camerahaus • Complink • CSI • CTC Photo Center • Dynamic Ultratech • Electroworld • Enigma Technologies • Island Photo • Kameraworld • Microstation • New Canary Photo • NT Computers • Octagon • PC 4 Me • PC Corner • PC Options • Photoline • Picture City • Quickline Micro Commercial • Silicon Valley • SM Appliance • Villman • Western Marketing PROVINCIAL: AAC Tech • Shoppers Mart • Color Master • Colours Foto Shop • Solid Triangle • Mark Jellicoe

US gays, liberals to battle Vatican edict

BOSTON—GAY rights activists and liberal Catholics girded on Wednesday for a long battle over the Vatican's tougher stance on homosexuality, predicting the Church would lose thousands of followers in the United States.

The policy, drafted to deal with scandals over pedophile priests that erupted in Boston in 2002 and spread across the United States, says the Church can admit those who have clearly overcome homosexual tendencies for at least three years.

But practicing homosexuals and those with "deep-seated" gay tendencies and those who support a gay culture should be barred, it said. Conservatives in the Roman Catholic Church and in other religions welcomed the stand.

"We are calling on all Catholics of goodwill to speak to their priests and to express their outrage at this decision," said Harry Knox, a director of Human Rights Campaign, a gay rights group based in Washington.

"We'll seek to speak over the heads of the Pope to Catholics in the pews to urge them to take into consideration what Jesus would do if He saw His neighbor being treated in this way," said Knox. "Jesus would never exclude."

The Catholic Church would lose thousands of future priests in the United States, while those who remain will live in fear of "witch hunts," said Marianne Duddy-Burke of gay and lesbian Catholic group Dignity USA in Boston.

"A number of good, holy gay priests will probably quietly slip away from their calling because of the climate."

That is exactly what many conservative Catholics say should have happened long ago. They laud the 21-paragraph Vatican document for reinforcing a standing policy that many believe has not been properly enforced.

"This is not just about homosexuality or homosexual acts—it's about an agenda and subculture that is in direct conflict with the teachings of the Catholic Church," said Michael Rose, author of "Goodbye, Good Men: How Liberals Brought Corruption Into the Catholic Church."

Like many conservative Catholics, Brian Saint-Paul, senior editor of the Catholic journal Crisis, sees a firm link between homosexuality and the scandal over pedophile priests.

"That was not a homosexual scandal. It was a pedophile scandal. There's a significant difference. But there was some kind of same-sex element to it," he said. "Rome has to look at all the factors. So we see them addressing that now."

Underpinning his concerns is a 2004 survey by the John Jay College of Criminal Justice which found that, of 10,667 people abused by priests between 1950 and 2002, 81 percent were male.

Gay rights advocates said the Church was turning gay men into scapegoats for pedophiles and should address deeper failings that allowed US bishops to move priests known to have abused minors from parish to parish instead of defrocking them or reporting them to authorities.

Daniel Maguire, a professor of moral theology at Marquette, a Jesuit university in Wisconsin, said the Church's underlying problem is its policy of mandatory celibacy and how this is interpreted as meaning not getting married.

"Many gay seminarians who weren't planning on getting married anyhow were drawn toward the priesthood but not necessarily drawn toward a virginal life," he said, adding that the new policy "will lead to a tremendous amount of deception and a 'don't ask, don't tell' kind of a regime."

Implementing it and defining "deep-seated gay tendencies" will prove tough to do, said Donald Cozzens of John Carroll University in Cleveland and author of "The Changing Face of the Priesthood: A Reflection on the Priest's Crisis of Soul."

"It is possible the vocation crisis will deepen," he said.

That would come at an alarming time for the US Catholic Church, whose followers are in decline in proportion to the population.

There are currently 64.8 million Catholics in the United States compared to 45.6 million in 1966—or 23 percent of the population compared to 24 percent in 1966, according to the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate in Georgetown. *Reuters*

POPE Benedict XVI greeting pilgrims during his weekly audience in Saint Peter's Square at the Vatican Nov. 23.
REUTERS

Israeli hang-glider lands into Lebanon

BEIRUT—AN ISRAELI HANG-GLIDER fell into Lebanese territory along the border with Israel on Wednesday, provoking a gunbattle between Hezbollah and Israeli forces, Israeli and Lebanese sources said.

Israeli military sources said he landed just meters from the frontier after being blown off course by strong winds before managing to get back into Israel under covering fire from the Israeli Army.

The Lebanese Shiite militant group Hezbollah said he was a soldier, but Israeli military sources insisted he was a civilian.

"He landed just inside the border fence, several meters away from it. Israeli troops identified him, opened the gate and called for him to come through, which he did safely," said the Israeli source, denying that its forces entered southern Lebanon.

Other Israeli security sources, however, said that Israeli troops had briefly crossed the border to help the man escape Hezbollah fighters and return to Israel.

The hang-glider landed in trouble on his return to Israel and was immediately arrested for violating a ban on taking off from a cliff near the border, Israeli police said.

They said he could be charged with endangering the lives of Israeli soldiers and civilians by his reckless action at a time of border tensions.

A report on the website of the topselling Israeli daily Yediot Aharonot said troops had just managed to save the man from being kidnapped by Hezbollah gunmen who were close by.

Meanwhile, the UN Security Council, after three days of deliberation, on Wednesday expressed "deep concern" over border fighting between Lebanon's Hezbollah guerrillas and Israeli forces.

Pro-Syrian Hizbollah guerrillas on Monday raided northern Israel in an unsuccessful attempt to capture Israeli troops, triggering the worst round of fighting since Israel pulled out of south Lebanon five years ago. Four Hezbollah fighters were killed in addition to injuries on both sides. *AFP, Reuters*

Council of Europe opens probe of CIA prisoner flights

STRASBOURG—THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE said Wednesday it was opening a probe into mounting reports that US intelligence used European airports to transit suspected terrorists held secretly outside US territory.

The pan-European body's secretary general, Terry Davis, announced "a formal inquiry into recent reports suggesting that terrorist suspects may have been secretly detained in or transported through a number of ... member states with the possible involvement of foreign agencies."

The Council's member states would have until Feb. 21 next year to provide information to the inquiry, Davis said in a written statement.

The inquiry would look at governments' compliance with European human rights law and whether officials had been involved in "unacknowledged" detentions or transport of detainees, including "at the instigation of any foreign agency," the statement said.

Press reports have said Washington's Central Intelligence Agency has operated secret detention facilities in eastern Europe, Afghanistan, Thailand and elsewhere in order to circumvent US laws protecting detainees, particularly restrictions on the use of torture.

Planes allegedly operated by the CIA have been spotted at airports in Finland, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain and Sweden as well as Morocco.

Britain, the current chair of the European Union, said Tuesday that following requests from several member states it would request answers from Washington to allegations that the CIA had held terrorist suspects in Europe.

The Council of Europe's parliamentary assembly had already announced a probe into reports of the CIA operating clandestine detention facilities in some European countries.

The new probe announced Wednesday came amid a flurry of fresh reports on alleged covert flights.

In Vienna, Austrian Air Force chief Erich Wolf confirmed that a Hercules aircraft suspected of transporting prisoners for the CIA had flown through Austrian airspace in 2003.

The aircraft's owner, Tepper Aviation, has insisted the flight was a civilian one.

In Lisbon, Focus magazine published photographs taken by an aviation buff showing what the magazine said were CIA planes linked to the transport of terror suspects making stopovers at Portuguese airports in March and May.

The magazine said one of the planes had touched down at Tires airport near Lisbon while the other three landed in Portugal's mid-Atlantic Azores archipelago where the United States has a military base. *AFP*

MODERN PROFESSIONAL SALON SUPPLY CO.
COSMETICS, ACCESSORIES & BEAUTY EQUIPMENTS
PRICE MARK DOWN
Scalp Steamer — Before P 7,880 NOW P 5,480
Infrared Lamp — Before P 25,000 NOW P 18,000
Facial Trolley — Before P 4,100 NOW P 2,800
Hydraulic Chair — Before P 7,880 NOW P 5,580
Facial Steamer — Before P 9,880 NOW P 6,480
Magnifying Lamp — Before P 7,880 NOW P 5,780
Massage Bed — Before P 9,880 NOW P 8,400
Facial Bed — Before P 10,880 NOW P 7,580
SALES & SHOWROOM BRANCHES
30 Real Street Alabang-Zapote Rd. Talon I, Las Piñas City Tel. 873-1271
G/F Doña Juanita Bldg., 9510 Taguig cor. J.P. Rizal St., Brgy. Valenzuela, Makati City Tel. 897-6613
137-D Roosevelt Ave., Frisco, Quezon City Tel. 372-1920

SUBIC TREATS!
ZOOBIC SAFARI ADVENTURE P295* PER PAX
*Weekdays, P395 for Weekends
ZOOPER TRIP DAY TOURS VIA TIGERS ON THE RUN COASTER (SAT/SUN TRIP) MNLA-ZOOBIC-MNLA P899 PER PAX
Zoobic Safari Tour
Set Meal Lunch
Duty Free Shopping
OVERNIGHT STAY
HOTEL ESCAPADE WEEKDAYS WEEKENDS P499 P599 P599 P799
EXOTIC ZOOBIC Overnight Stay @ Zoobic Lodge, Zoobic Safari Adventure Tour, Breakfast meal P990
LEGENDA HOTEL ACCMDT'N Overnight Stay @ 1st class hotel, Zoobic Safari Adventure Tour P1,690
898-3695; 899-9595 loc. 344; 899-9819/ 24; 895-7142; 817-8712; TXT: 0917-8351111; SUBIC: (047) 252-2272; CLARK: (045) 599-3956; VISIT: www.zoobic.com.ph
ALSO AVAILABLE TAGAYTAY/CALIRAYA TOUR PACKAGES!

KONICA MINOLTA DiMAGE
KONICA MINOLTA DYNAX
CASIO EXILIM
CASIO EXILIM PRO
Nikon COOLPIX DIGITAL CAMERA
Nikon Professional
HITACHI Inspire the Next DVDCAM DVD VIDEO CAMERA
Authorized Digital Camera Service Center
COLUMBIA GLOBAL PHOTO SALES CORP.
No. 46 Sta. Rosa St., San Francisco Del Monte, Quezon City
Tels.: 363-7463 · 363-8550 · 365-0927/28 · 414-3110 Fax No.: (632) 364-3334
E-mail: sales_mktg@columbiaglobal.net · www.columbiaglobal.net

Study in Australia
Study International in cooperation with Curtin University of Technology, Curtin International College, Box Hill Institute & the University of Canberra would like to invite you to attend the Study in Australia Seminars & Interview Sessions.
Box Hill Institute was awarded Victoria's Top TAFE 2004 and 2005. Box Hill Institute specialises in Hotel Management, Commercial Cookery, Patisserie/Baking, Tourism Management, Business Programs, Computer Technologies and Engineering Streams.
Curtin University of Technology located in Perth, Western Australia offers 860 courses in Agribusiness, Business, Engineering, Computer Science, Biotechnology, Health Sciences, Nursing, Public Health, Physiotherapy, Education, Journalism, Design, Social Work and Mining.
Curtin's Sarawak campus in Miri, East Malaysia offers pre-university and degree programs to higher degrees in Business Administration, Commerce, LifeSciences, Engineering and the Arts. Curtin International College is an independent private college located on the main Curtin campus which prepares students for undergraduate study by providing a direct pathway into many Curtin courses.
University of Canberra College offers professional programs designed for students who do not qualify for direct entry to the University of Canberra. It is located on the University of Canberra campus in Australia's capital city.
Attend and get a chance to win an iPOD MINI!
Seminars & Interview Sessions
LIMITED SLOTS, BY APPOINTMENT ONLY.
Sunday 27 November 2005
11am - 2pm | Box Hill Institute – Presenter: Mr Anthony Bailey
3pm - 6pm | University of Canberra College – Presenter: Mr Greg Draper
Monday 28 November 2005
9am - 10.30am | Curtin International College – Presenter: Mr Barry Fleming
11am - 12.30pm | Curtin, Sarawak – Presenter: Mr Charles Tan
2.30pm - 5pm | Curtin, Perth – Presenter: Mr Walter Ong
Curtin University of Technology
Venue: Study International Office, UG36 Alfaro Place, 146 LP Leviste Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City.
IMPORTANT: please bring academic transcripts, resume and IELTS results (if any) to the interview sessions.
For details, call 817 8090 or email dianne@studyinternational.com.ph
Box Hill Institute CRICOS Provider Code 02411J.
Curtin University of Technology Bentley Campus CRICOS Provider Code 00301J
University of Canberra College CRICOS Provider Code 01893E.
Curtin International College CRICOS Provider Code 02042G
STUDY INTERNATIONAL
Business Writing and Academic Writing courses now offered at Study International.

MORE AND MORE FILIPINOS ARE SAYING GOODBYE TO HAIR LOSS—THANKS TO NU/HART
Our list of satisfied clients now includes politicians, athletes, celebrities and other highly-visible personalities in the Philippines.
Nu/Hart Manila doesn't just put you in the same league as some well-known Filipinos; we help take you to new heights, thanks to a fuller-looking head of hair and a renewed sense of self-confidence from your Nu/Hart Hair Transplant.
Nu/Hart Manila is backed by the proven expertise and highest standards of Nu/Hart Hair Clinics in performing over 25,000 procedures on men and women from over 40 countries.
So if you want to restore your natural hairline, your appearance and your confidence, choose the expert that is known and trusted around the world—Nu/Hart.
A Nu/Hart hair transplant is:
• Permanent and growing
• Safe and natural, using your own hair
• Maintenance-free
• Affordable
• No monthly visits
0% INTEREST MONTHLY PAYMENT PLANS AVAILABLE
CALL OR VISIT US NOW FOR A FREE PRIVATE CONSULTATION.
638-6000
CONSULTATIONS AVAILABLE IN BACOLOD, CEBU, DAVAO, AND ILOILO
IN THE U.S. CALL 1-800-776-7775
VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT www.nuhart.com OR EMAIL US AT info@nuhart.com
Chat On Our Web Site With A Live Consultant.
NU/HART HAIR CLINICS
THERE'S A NEW YOU WAITING AT NU/HART.
MANILA • HONG KONG • NEW YORK • CHICAGO • ATLANTA • PITTSBURGH • PHILADELPHIA • PUERTO RICO • DUBAI

Send resumés instantly
VISIT US AT
www.jobmarketonline.com
JOB Market

Supreme Court of the Philippines
Judicial and Bar Council
Manila

Pursuant to Section 1, Rule 7 of the Rules of the Judicial and Bar Council (JBC-009), as amended, the public is hereby notified of the Panel Interview of the following Candidates for the position of CHIEF JUSTICE of the SUPREME COURT on THURSDAY, 1 DECEMBER 2005, at the Old Session Hall, Third Floor, Old Supreme Court Building, Taft Avenue, Manila:

2-3 P.M. - Hon. Leonardo A. Quisumbing

3-4 P.M. - Hon. Artemio V. Panganiban

4-5 P.M. - Hon. Reynato S. Puno

The interviews may go beyond the above schedule for each should it become necessary.

As stated in the amended rule, the interviews shall be conducted in public.

24 November 2005.

MA. LUISA D. VILLARAMA
Clerk of Court
Ex Officio Secretary

"We dare you to compare us with others"
DRAGON FIREWORKS
FACTORY PRICE!!!
* DEALER *
For more inquiries, call:
241-7526 • 231-9198 • 911-2981 • 421-7584
Telefax: 245-4818 • Cell No.: 0917-814-8463
e-mail: dragon_fireworks@emailaccount.com

VARICOSE & SPIDER VEINS
CAN BE TREATED WITHOUT SURGERY
Sclerotherapy is virtually painless and performed in our offices on an out-patient basis.
Dr. John T. Cenica
JANCEN VARICOSE VEIN TREATMENT CENTER
526-6292 • 521-1444 (Manila)
Txt ur questions to (0917) 528-7897
Suite 33-C, 2/F Midland Plaza (bosidos Robinson's Placo) M. Adriatico St., Ermita, Mla.
HOTEL REMBRANDT #26 Tomas Morato Ave., Quezon City Tel. No. 376-4005
www.jancencosmeticsurgery.com

Unleash the full potential of your Vac... with
iRobot® Roomba® Discovery
Changing the way the world cleans.
Automatic recharging when low battery
Won't fall down your stairs
Cleans under furniture
Cleans carpet
Cleans floor edges
Virtual Wall
iRobot, the leader in realistic robotic solutions created Roomba Discovery, the best cleaning system possible and the best value robotic vacuum in the market today. Roomba has a low profile and robotic design allowing it to clean under beds, along kitchen kickboards and wherever dirt tries to hide, covering 99% of your floor in a single cleaning cycle.
No other robotic vacuums combine the ease of use, cleaning power and intelligence of Roomba. With more advancements and improvements, Roomba Discovery features dirt detect, a self-charging Home Base(TM) and an Advanced Power System that make this the finest robotic floor vac on the planet. It is designed to make your life easier, quicker and almost fun.
Available at these Home Improvement Centers:
ALABANG Westgate Alabang Home Depot 771-1623 • Wilcon Builders Depot I (Alabang) 809-9106
MAKATI MC Home Depot (Magallanes) 893-3070 • Wilcon Builders Depot V (Pasong Tamo) 893-3120
PASIG MC Home Depot (Ortigas) 636-6944 • Ortigas Home Depot 636-0772
QUEZON CITY Wilcon Builders Depot II (Balintawak) 363-8268 • Wilcon Builders Depot III (Libis) 634-8327
TAGUIG MC Home Depot (Fort Bonifacio) 815-4759

F.A.M.E.
Electric Shower Heater from Brazil the biggest mfr. In the world
IN THE PHILIPPINES, THOUSAND AND THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE HAVE USED THIS PRODUCT. IT'S PROVEN, IT IS •SAFE •CONVENIENT •EASY TO USE
SUPER DUCHA
For Low Pressure Area
BANHO JATO FORTE
CHUVEIRO TRADICIONAL
Suitable to salty mineral substance
FOR TAP WATER
GIVE YOU A PLEASANT BATH W/ INSTANT HOT WATER AT LOW COST
DUCHA MILLENNIUM
FAUCET
Please contact
Tels.: 913-2254; 913-5414 Q.C.
733-8194-96 Manila
Sold in all leading electrical & hardware stores

COPIERS Sales/Rentals
RICOH • Canon • Olivetti • Savin
Also Available : LIQUID COPIERS
₱15,000. ONLY POWDER TYPE FT 3320, 15 CPM
BRAND NEW CANON iR 1210 BEST FOR BUS.
₱ 39,950. ONLY
₱20,000. ONLY RECON RICOH FT 3813 BEST FOR BUSINESS
BRAND NEW CANON FC 220 FOR PERSONAL USE
₱15,000. ONLY
PARTS & SUPPLIES AVAILABLE FOR MOST COPIER BRANDS.
COPYTRADE
Copytrade Bldg. 550 MF Jhocson St. Sampaloc, Manila (Beside Nat'l Univ.)
Tels. 749-8155 to 56
781-3472 • 749-8216
www.copytrade.com.ph
ACCEPT COPIER RENTAL

CROWN QUALITY STRIKES TO WIN!
Liza del Rosario
Philippine's ace bowler, one of the world's best
"To compete globally, one needs the strength and determination to win."
Liza del Rosario
Like her, Crown Pipes believes in quality as a "must" to win the trust and confidence of architects, engineers and building contractors. At Crown Asia Compounders Corporation, strict measures keep manufacturing operations under global standards of quality, producing, only world class uPVC pipes and fittings.
True to form, world class Filipino like Liza del Rosario trusts the proven quality of Crown Pipes. Just like a champ, she knows the game. Like her, we too should aim for the crown.
BUILDING QUALITY. PROTECTING LIVES AND PROPERTIES.
CROWN® PIPES
WORLD CLASS UPVC PIPES & FITTINGS

PRINT PROFIT
START A PRINTSHOP BUSINESS NOW!
T-SHIRT • MUGS • UMBRELLA • KEYCHAIN
STICKERS • BALLOONS • BALLPENS • ETC.
We will help you set up a PRINTSHOP BUSINESS and enhance your income now!
Nathan Lopez
Award-Winning Young Actor
"Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros"
FOR RESERVATIONS
CALL: (02) 735-0452 • (02) 488-2393 • (02) 488-8005
0919-4875363 • 0919-8105019 • 0928-7660993

idec
INK CONDITIONING
Split Type Aircon
1hp P16,500
1.5hp P18,500 2hp P25,000 2.5hp P30,000
Floor Mounted Aircon
3hp-P39,500
5hp-P55,000
Free Installation!
Call: 8866696/7880221
Available at MC Home Depot -Makati, Fort Bonifacio & Ortigas
Cebu (032)346-5498 / Davao (082)235-8821

JOB Market
1st Best Business PLAN Competitions
Organized by:
Chinese Filipino Business Club, Inc.
Department of Trade and Industry
Philippine Trade Training Center
Co-organized by:
Asian Institute of Management, Assumption College, Ateneo de Manila University, Chiang Kai Shek College, De La Salle University, Far Eastern University University of the East, Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila Polytechnic University of the Philippines and San Beda College
Open to all Metro Manila college students
Wonderful prizes await the winners! Your dream business may come to reality!
Deadline of submission: January 6, 2006
A one day free seminar-workshop will be lectured by
free
Prof. Betty Makani Lim
Faculty Member
Marketing and Law Department
John Gokongwei School of Management
Ateneo de Manila University
Dec. 1, 2005 9am - 5pm at CFBC Auditorium
Free lunch and snacks plus Certificate of Completion
Even non-participants of the competition are all welcome to join the seminar workshop.
Interested Parties may call CFBC @ 2444991, 2444996 for registration and contest mechanics
LIMITED SLOTS ONLY, FIRST COME FIRST SERVE!
More employment opportunities in today's JOB Market
Where You Find The Best.

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

NOTICE TO THE DEPOSITORS OF THE CLOSED RURAL BANK OF SAN NICOLAS (BATANGAS), INC.

1. Pursuant to Monetary Board Resolution No. 1443 dated November 10, 2005 ordering the closure of the Rural Bank of San Nicolas (Batangas), Inc. (RBSNI), the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) will start its operations for the servicing of claims for insured deposits in the closed RBSNI on Friday, November 18, 2005.

2. Depositors are requested to proceed directly to the following payoff sites where they can file their claims with the PDIC representatives during office hours (8:00 AM to 5:00 PM), from Monday to Friday.

RBSNI Office/Branch	*Payoff Site/s Address*	*Duration of Initial Operations*
San Nicolas (Head Office)	San Nicolas, Batangas	November 18, 2005 to December 9, 2005
Balayan Branch	Balayan, Batangas	November 18, 2005 to December 9, 2005
Lemery Branch	Lemery, Batangas	November 18, 2005 to December 9, 2005
San Pascual Branch	San Pascual, Batangas	November 18, 2005 to December 9, 2005
Silang Branch	Silang, Cavite	November 18, 2005 to December 9, 2005
Rosario Branch	Rosario, Batangas	November 18, 2005 to December 2, 2005

After the said date, all depositors can file their claims personally at the PDIC Claims Counter, 6th Floor, SSS BLDG, Ayala Avenue corner V.A. Rufino St., Makati City from Monday to Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. or by mail to:

The Manager
Claims Processing Department
Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation
2228 Chino Roces Avenue
1231 Makati City

3. Depositors are advised to present the following requirements to the PDIC representatives when filing their claims:
   a. Original evidence of deposit such as Savings Passbook, Certificate of Time Deposit, or Bank Statement including Unused Checks.
   b. Two (2) latest identification cards/documents (IDs) with depositor's signature.

   Other documents may be required by the PDIC representatives in the course of their processing of claims filed.

4. Pursuant to the provision of R.A. 3591, as amended by R.A. 9302, the last day for filing of claims for insured deposits in the closed Rural Bank of San Nicolas (Batangas), Inc., is on November 10, 2007. After November 10, 2007 (prescriptive date), PDIC, as insurer, shall no longer accept any claim for insured deposits maintained with the said closed bank.

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

PDI – Nov. 17, 24 & Dec. 1, 2005

Milestones and Memories

Nov. 25, 1910
Insular Life was incorporated and organized by an all-Filipino board of directors as the first Filipino life insurance company.

1931
Insular Life occupied its own building in Plaza Moraga, then the best commercial and office district in Manila.

1934
Insular Life became the first Filipino insurance company to operate in a foreign country when it opened its Honolulu branch.

1942
Insular Life continued operations despite World War II, earning the distinction of being the life insurance company with the longest unbroken service record.

1943
Insular Life assumed the business written by Filipinas Life Assurance Company.

1945
The Company honored its pre-war and occupation commitments, thereby sustaining huge losses at war's end. It could have very conveniently declared bankruptcy and its owners could have afterwards opened a new company to start afresh. But realizing the damage such a recourse would have inflicted on the public's faith in the insurance industry, IL chose to continue operations.

1952
The Company established the first training School of Insurance in the country.

1954
Insular Life was the first insurance company to lower its premiums.

1958
Insular Life introduced industrial life insurance in the Philippines.

1960
The Company celebrated its Golden Jubilee with a total business in-force of P500 million. IL declared its first post-war cash dividends to stockholders.

1962
The Insular Life Educational Foundation (ILEF) was established. Now called Insular Life Foundation, Inc. (ILF), it awards college scholarship grants to deserving youth.

1963
Insular Life offices transferred to its new building in Makati.

1977
Insular Life embarked on mass marketing, an innovative concept in the marketing of life insurance in the Philippines.

1987
Insular Life completed its conversion from a stock company to a fully-mutual company.

1990
Insular Life expanded the range of financial services to offer clients, to include a health care company, an investment bank, a non-life insurance company, and a savings bank.

2001
Insular Life transferred to its new headquarters, The IL Corporate Centre in Alabang, Muntinlupa City.

2004
Insular Life was the first Filipino life insurance firm to break the billion peso mark, reaching a net income of P1.06 billion.

2005
Insular Life celebrates its 95th anniversary. In May, Reader's Digest conferred upon Insular Life a Gold Super Brand award for Quality, Value, Trustworthiness, Strong Image and Understanding of Customer Needs.

95 years of
More than
years of ex
INSULAR LIFE
Through the years, through wars, unc
wavered in its commitment. That's ho
Today, Insular Life proudly turns 95. That's 95 years of fulfilling the Fi
That's how we made it this far. Insular Life - the only Filipino life insu

f existence.

a hundred

xperience.

95 years True to you.

ertainties and crises, Insular Life never
w we gained wisdom beyond our years.

lipino dream by fulfilling our commitment, no matter the circumstance.
rance company among the country's top three life insurance companies.

Public Service with Insular Life Foundation

Technician Scholarship with TUP

Since 1984, Insular Life has been providing scholarship grants to 45 underprivileged but deserving students enrolled in TUP Taguig and TUP Visayas for 3-year Technician courses.

Teacher Training and Principal Empowerment Programs

Since 1997, the Foundation has been sponsoring various in-service teacher training in English, Math and Science as well as principal empowerment programs with various institutions. For 2005-2006, it partnered with Ateneo Center for Educational Development supporting 25 elementary and high school principals from Metro Manila to an 8-month leadership and management course.

Adopt-A-School Program

In support of DepEd's Adopt-A-School Program, Insular Life donated a computer laboratory to one high school and cable facilities and TV sets to another elementary school in Muntinlupa to help improve the quality of teaching in both schools.

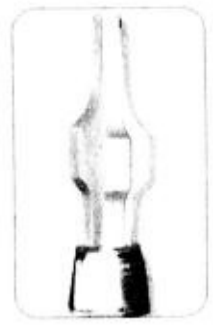
Adopt-A-Scholar Program

Insular Life employees adopted 100 public school students from Grades 1 - 5 to ensure that they finish their elementary education. Annual provisions for school supplies, bags, uniforms, t-shirts and story books are given to the adopted students.

Gawad Kalinga and Habitat House Build

Donations to the construction of houses were given to various communities of Gawad Kalinga and Habitat for Humanity since 2001. Once a year, employees volunteer to help the beneficiaries construct their houses.

The Outstanding Filipino (TOFIL) Award



Insular Life has been the sole corporate partner of the Philippine Jaycee Senate in its annual search for The Outstanding Filipino. TOFIL was conceived in 1988 to institutionalize public recognition of men and women, at least 41 years old, whose exemplary achievements in their field of expertise and their contribution to public welfare and national development are worthy of emulation.

Anniversary Offerings

Guaranteed Issue Offer!

From November 1 to December 16, 2005, Insular Life policyholders with medically standard policies issued from January 1, 2003 to October 31, 2005 may apply for an additional insurance coverage, without the need for a medical examination. The additional coverage may be equal to the face amount of the basic policy issued previously (inclusive of STAR, if any), up to a maximum of P2 million. The Guaranteed Issue Offer is available to policyholders between 12 months and 50 years of age.

All policyholders with in force policies during the promo period December 2005 up to February 2006, text your updated contact information and get a chance to win as much as P95,000 in any of the 2 raffle draws in December 2005 and February 2006. Just text:INSULARLIFE Policy Number/Last Name/Home Phone/Address/Email and send to 2327 for Globe subscribers or to 0917-8902327 for non-Globe subscribers. Example: INSULARLIFE A009999991/Flores/021859/8698359. Qualified texters will receive a confirmation message and a raffle entry number. For more info, call 771-1818 loc 4424.

Ode to 95 with the UP Singing Ambassadors

A treat to all employees, agents and friends of Insular Life, is a one-night free concert of the multi-awarded UP Singing Ambassadors on December 14, 2005, 7:30 p.m. at the Insular Life Corporate Centre, Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang Muntinlupa.

Partnerships Beyond Time

We will honor our long-time corporate clients who continue to trust us for their company's and employees' insurance needs. To be held on February 10, 2006 at the Insular Life Corporate Centre, it will be a night of thanksgiving and celebration of the enduring relationship between Insular Life and its various corporate clients like Procter & Gamble, Mantrade Development Corp., Colgate-Palmolive, IBM, Lopez Group of Companies, Coca Cola Export, National Power Corp., and Krafts General Foods. For more information, call Mr. Andrew San Juan at 817-3051 loc. 3197.

ISSN 0116-2642 INQUIRER Vol. 20 No. 350

OPINION

Email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: http://www.inq7.net

Text us your feedback: inquirer opi name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

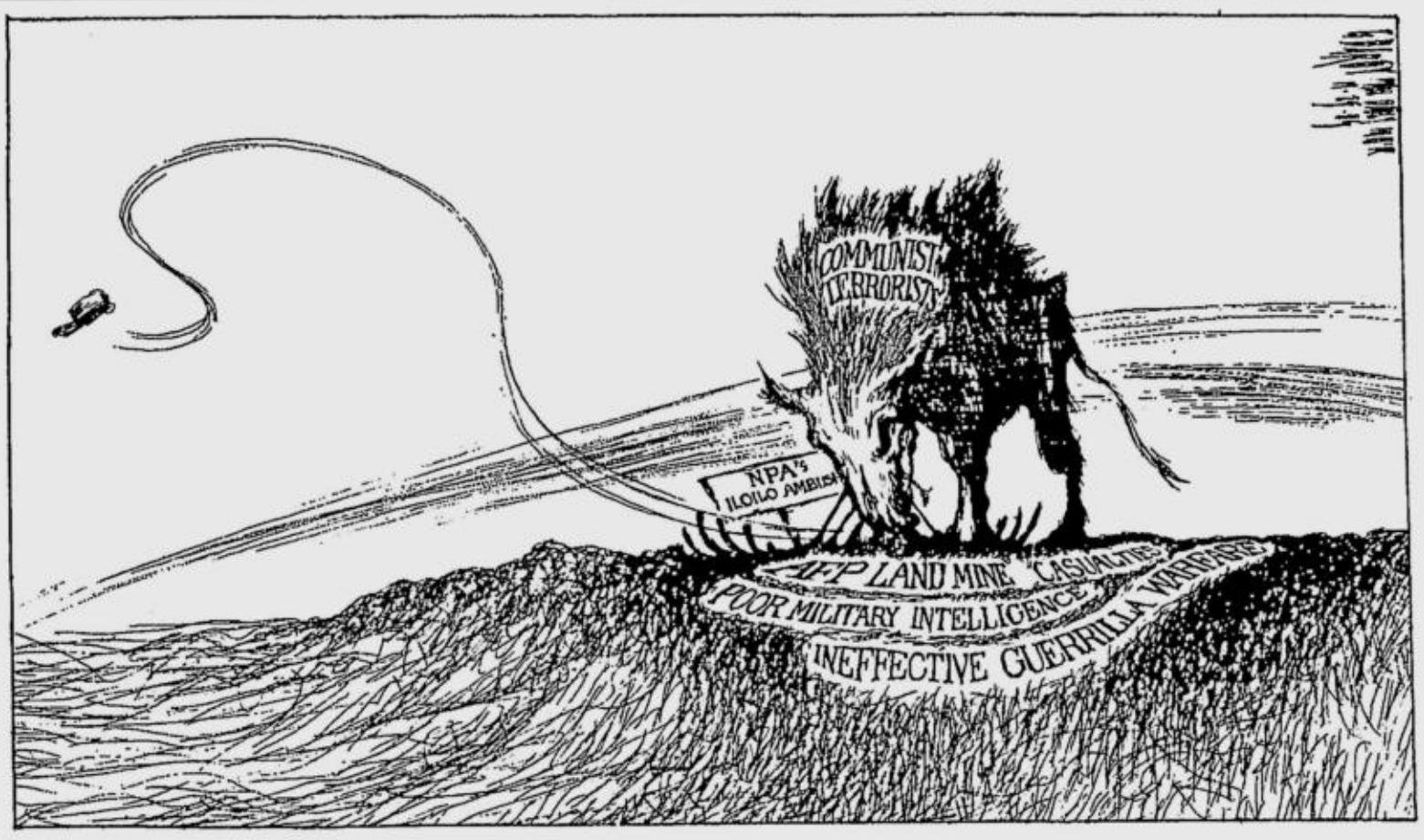
THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 • Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.
•100% soy ink •

Publisher ISAGANI YAMBOT
Editor in Chief LETTY JIMENEZ-MAGSANOC
Managing Editor JOSE MA. D. NOLASCO
Associate Editor ABELARDO S. ULANDAY
Associate Editor for Readership ROSARIO A. GARCELLANO
News Editor ARTEMIO T. ENGRACIA JR. • *Chief, News Day Desk* NILO B. PAUROM
Opinion Editor JORGE V. ARUTA
National Editor PERGENTINO B. BANDAYREL JR.
Senior Desk Editor JUAN V. SARMIENTO JR.
Editorial Consultant AMANDO DORONILA
Chief Photographer ERNIE U. SARMIENTO
Art & Design Director LYNETT A. VILLARIBA

Board Chairman MARIXI R. PRIETO
President ALEXANDRA PRIETO-ROMUALDEZ
Executive Vice President DAVID O. VALDES
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing RENATO R. REINOSO
VP for Advertising FELIPE R. OLARTE
AVP for Circulation GLORIA P. LARDIZABAL

Readers' Advocate LORNA KALAW TIROL
readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph
Tel. No. 897-8808, Loc. 342; Cell Phone No. 0917-805-7412

All rights reserved. Except as permitted by law, no part of the Philippine Daily Inquirer may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means stored in a database or retrieval system without its prior written permission.



Chicken's back

THE MOST MYSTERIOUS—AND MOST WANTED—of President Macapagal-Arroyo's chickens is back. Virgilio Garcillano is home to roost. It seems, though, that this particular chicken's coop is located firmly within the President's camp. Not that we have heard from this (to borrow the title of Alejandro Roces' famous story) peculiar chicken. The country has not (so far, anyway) heard from Garcillano directly, but only through first, his wife, and most recently, Surigao del Norte Rep. Prospero Pichay. Both say that Garcillano wants to clear his name.

EDITORIAL

Only now? Why not back then? And, most importantly, if better late than never, then in what way? Now that the administration has closed off all legal avenues, how will Garcillano vindicate himself? Through a press conference? That could turn out to be another production number like the one in which two CDs were brandished by Presidential Spokesman Ignacio Bunye, setting off the President's woes. Indeed, of what probative, or even corroborative, value would a press conference have? None. Particularly if it turns out to be a tightly controlled one.

Most probably, Garcillano will have to end up being questioned in Congress—in all likelihood by the House of Representatives and not by the Senate. This is where the fate of this peculiar chicken becomes intimately tied again to that of the President. For by stepping forward to float the possibility of taking custody of the former election commissioner, Pichay is clearly showing whose political *manok* Garcillano remains. It is not for nothing that Pichay is the President's speaker-in-waiting.

We cannot help but wonder about the timing of it all, of course. If there is something touching about Garcillano coming back home to roost at the onset of the Christmas season, it's also a politically convenient time for the government. Politics is the lowest priority of most people this time of year. People's minds are focused on friends and family. Congress itself will not be in the mood to focus on anything for very long, and will gladly make short shrift of any investigation that may resume or begin. Add to this the long-delayed, but now virtually finished, replacement of pro-impeachment House committee chairmen with more pliable colleagues, and the stage has been set for the cooked goose, the *lutong macao*, the done deal.

The calculations of the Palace apparently go this way: The controversy won't go away, and if it persists until the new leadership of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines begins to assert itself, things could go badly for the President. Better to go for "closure," and have Garcillano read from a prepared script, which happens to also implicate members of the opposition (the statement that he is prepared to name a "persistent" caller other than the President is widely understood to mean a leading opposition candidate). Whether Garcillano does a good job or not for his handlers can be offset by the lack of public interest in politics during the holiday season.

Still, even if we assume such a cunning plan is in the offing, this doesn't mean that it will succeed. Malacañang's peculiar chicken has too much explaining to do. His disappearance serves as a reminder of a phrase that Ms Arroyo's defenders in the House love. During the debates on the impeachment complaint, they kept saying, "The law may be harsh, but it is the law." And indeed, the law can often be harsh, as shown by one of its precepts.

The law, generations of students have been told, assumes that flight is a sign of guilt. It is not the same as an admission of guilt, nor does it necessarily prove guilt. But it indicates, and strongly suggests, guilt. In the wake of a controversy that not only subjected his reputation to the gravest challenge, Garcillano fled. His flight must have been aided and abetted by many. And who were they? At whose expense? And was it under duress? But that is assuming we accept the widely understood sequence of events, which may not even end up being Garcillano's line.

We are hearing too many administration politicians wondering out loud if he actually left the country. Which means that when the time comes for him to give his account of events, the tale may be too tall compared to what the public already knows. No one should put it past the administration to try to sell an unbelievable story either to the public or to its supporters in Congress.

Why was construction of 2 footbridges stopped?

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THE 10-KILOMETER COMMONWEALTH AVENUE in Quezon City, from the Quezon Memorial Circle to Fairview, is the most accident-prone street in Metro Manila, according to official statistics released last week. The reason is that Commonwealth is a very wide street. It is at least six lanes on each side, for a total of 12 lanes. Pedestrians crossing this street have to negotiate all 12 lanes before they get to safety on the other side. Because this is a wide avenue, motorists drive fast, not expecting pedestrians to cross it. There are hardly any pedestrian lanes or working traffic lights. This is a dangerous mix for disaster. No wonder many accidents happen here.

Pedestrians literally risk their lives when they cross the street. The Metro Manila Development Authority tried to remedy the situation by constructing footbridges But for such a long street, the footbridges are far apart. So pedestrians, not wanting to walk the distance to the nearest footbridge, take the risk and dash across. Most of the time they make it, but sometimes they don't. And bone and flesh are no match to speeding steel.

The MMDA again tried to remedy the situation by erecting pink fences on the street islands so pedestrians cannot cross the street at ground level. It has done this on Quezon Avenue, which is a continuation of Commonwealth after the Quezon Circle. But the fences are incomplete and have gaps, and so pedestrians dash through these gaps to cross Quezon Avenue, which is almost as wide as Commonwealth—even if there is a footbridge just overhead, and despite warning signs that one can die by crossing the street. In some cases, foolish and lazy pedestrians risk their lives rather than take the few steps up the footbridge to safely cross the street.

Because of the fences, motorists speeding on Quezon Avenue don't expect pedestrians to dash across even more than motorists on Commonwealth. So when a pedestrian does dash across, they can't stop on time and BAM! another careless pedestrian bites the dust.

But in some cases, the MMDA overdid the pink fence bit, as at the corner of Edsa and Quezon Avenue, beside the Metrorail station. There are so many tall fences there that the place looks like Laguna Lake with its fish corrals. And indeed, humans walking beside the fences feel like fish caught in the corrals.

There is no footbridge on either side of Edsa and pedestrians wanting to cross to the other side of Quezon Avenue—to the supermarket on the south side of the street for instance—have to run across the wide street, often in the path of speeding vehicles.

The MMDA obviously is aware of the bad situation and announced last week that it would construct more footbridges across Commonwealth and hopefully lower the accident rate. The question is when. When the body count has reached a number big enough to land in the Guinness Book of World Records?

And what is this? There are at least two steel footbridges almost finished but work has been discontinued and the project has been abandoned for about a year now. One is at the corner of Tandang Sora and the other is farther east, near the Montessori school.

The Tandang Sora footbridge is complete on the north side, and has already one set of stairs. But the span on the south side is missing, and no work has been done for a year now. Some residents near it now use the footbridge to dry their laundry.

The spans of the Montessori footbridge are complete and can be used already, except that it has no stairs on both sides.

I've written about them in a previous column that asked why they have been abandoned. I have personally asked MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando why they didn't finish them, and he replied they are projects of the Department of Public Works and Highways.

I asked a DPWH undersecretary the same question, and he answered that they are projects of the MMDA. I told him that Fernando said they are projects of the DPWH. And indeed, they look like DPWH projects: MMDA footbridges are painted pink and blue while DPWH footbridges are painted silver. These two unfinished footbridges are painted silver.

The undersecretary replied that the DPWH only provided the materials for the footbridges. Work belongs to the MMDA.

We asked in this column if this was true. To this day, there has been no answer.

What's the mystery here? Did the contractor abandon the project because he is not being paid by the government? Who is the contractor anyway? Or has he been paid the full amount and dismissed all his workers so he won't spend any more for their wages? Shouldn't the MMDA or the DPWH finish them first before starting on new ones? May we get an answer from either agency?

The irony here is that while work on the footbridges was going on before the elections, there were many signs around them proclaiming that they were "Projects of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo" with her smiling figure prominently displayed so the people won't forget whom to vote for. After the elections, work suddenly stopped and the signs were removed. We thought work would be resumed soon, but until now, a year later, the construction has not resumed.

Now there are many new billboards again on Commonwealth and Quezon Avenues, announcing "seven new roads" of GMA, again with her smiling face. Why doesn't she finish the footbridges first?

People who recognize me ask the same question but alas, I have no answer. I don't know why work was abandoned. I don't even know who is responsible for them.

Will somebody please provide the answers?

Brain drain and the Filipino Diaspora

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

THE LOSS OF FILIPINO TALENT TO FOREIGN shores has been a perennial problem, but what makes it truly alarming now is that, this time, Filipinos are not merely being "pushed out" of the country by depressing Third World wages but are being "pulled in" by the host countries' rising demand for trained professionals. The changing demographics of Europe and America should warn us that they will be recruiting more and more Filipinos to fill jobs for which there are not enough trained and willing locals.

How have we responded to this challenge?

First off, we must be careful to avoid the class prejudice implicit in the most recent lamentations, which were triggered by hospital closures caused by the exodus of doctors and nurses. There are also earlier anecdotal accounts of middle-class migration. When poor Filipinos relocate to find jobs abroad, we see no loss, and indeed we all celebrate the new contributors of dollar remittances. When middle-class Filipinos find jobs abroad, we bemoan the loss of the nation's human patrimony and see shortages of professional services 10 years down the road. The first is apparently "brawn drain"—they are expendable and unusable in our economy. The second is "brain drain"—they are valuable to Philippine society and must be retained. This bias is completely misguided.

We lose Filipino genius either way. In the first, we lose the benefit of Filipino labor that we have failed to develop, harness and reward. Just the other day, I spoke to a Filipino chef in Spain who, from the way he described his *oeuvre*, could create a mouth-watering paella. When I asked what he used to do in Manila, he said he was a bodyguard to a local politician! And it took Spain to bring out the culinary artist from within!

We must also consider that the children of migrant Filipino families could very well be the next generation of Filipino professionals. For all we know, the next Manny Pangilinan could have just now exited through Naia immigration, tagging along with his parents who are bound for a new life in Canada. When families migrate, we typically tend to look at their class origins in Manila. But migration precisely liberates them from the shackles of class, gives them a chance to start anew and find a place where hard work and determination matter more than pedigree and birth. The North Atlantic democracies on both sides pride themselves in rewarding achievement, and for them, what matters most about their newly arrived Filipino migrants is their future, and not their past.

The real difference, however, lies in the loss of investments in trained labor. We invest scarce resources to educate Filipino professionals, only to export them when they are fully trained. When they leave to use their skills abroad, in effect it is other societies that reap the harvest that we have sown. They tap our products full-grown, and enjoy a hidden subsidy from us because they no longer need to invest in their own schools, in teacher training, in scholarships or, for that matter, in the entire social infrastructure needed to raise an infant into a medical doctor, nurse, physical or occupational therapist, accountant, or banker.

I do not agree with the proposal to ban, or regulate tightly, the exit of trained professionals. If businessmen can speak of the free movement of capital, struggling fathers and mothers must live by the free movement of labor. Let Filipino talent seek the market where it is paid the highest value. Let Filipino parents find the most congenial world for their children. Using the law to stifle this market will only create a discrete class of people who are both frustrated and intelligent, a combination both combustible and nasty. Worse, given the state of corruption in the country, such regulations will only create a new industry of exemption fixers.

I think there are tiny, incremental steps that can stem the hemorrhage of Filipino talent. For one, perhaps the respective professions should reorganize themselves to take care of their young, entry-level cohorts. As a total outsider to the medical field, I sometimes wonder if the fee system among doctors is geared to those already "made," those who have "arrived."

Contrast that to the profession I am more familiar with, namely, law. In the early 1970s, the big American-style law partnership entered the scene and offered young lawyers an opportunity to earn a living wage immediately upon passing the bar. Until then, the idea was that a fresh graduate could work only as an apprentice and must live on an apprentice's stipend until he was able to take clients on his own. This changed the rules of the game, so to speak, and has enabled law graduates from humble families to live decently even while they wait for the time when they have earned their spurs.

I do not know if the medical guilds have looked at how they can nurture young doctors when they need that nurturing most, i.e., when they are investing in new equipment and technology, when they are building their own patient-base, and coincidentally, when they are raising their children. I am aware of US hospitals that pay their young doctors real salaries and advance some of their start-up expenses, chargeable against future earnings.

* * *

On Dec. 2, or Friday next week, at 10 a.m., the UP College of Law and the Malcolm Trust Funds will sponsor a roundtable discussion on "The Rule of Law and People Power." I will be giving a presentation, together with other specialists in constitutional law and in the social sciences. It will be held at the UP Law Center Penthouse.

* * *

Comments to passionforreason@gmail.com

For every family—a scholar

COMMENTARY

Asuncion David Maramba

THE SITUATION IS LIKE "THE CHARGE OF THE Light Brigade." Your left, your right, behind you, before you—no exit, no light, what hope?

The only hope for this hapless country seems to be education. But despite education department officials and teachers who do their best, education has fallen to rot: huge classes, no classrooms, error-filled textbooks or no textbooks, poorly trained teachers or no teachers, pitiful budget or no budget, mediocre graduates or graduates disappearing in the diaspora. "Politicians and bureaucrats have already destroyed basic education." They are also "destroying higher education."

And now "the US wants our teachers" and "Europe wants our students." We escape desperation by becoming numb. Numb or not, the urgency remains.

Education is the last bastion—close to the only way out. Thankfully, there is ferment in education in the private sector. But so still seems the ferment because it struggles in a murky sea of mismanaged education by government. In a better country, the efforts would positively shine.

I speak of persons and groups that are trying to close the chasm created by bad governance and poisoned politics. As a young woman lamented, "*Kung hindi sa mga* NGO *at* social responsible organizations, *nagunaw na ang Pilipinas.*"

There are the institutional and corporate education arms and foundations backed by logistics like Centex of the Ayalas, Phinma's Education Network, Metrobank Foundation (why not move from "Outstanding Teachers" into education), to name but a few.

"Richer" schools share resources and expertise by "twinning" with public schools, or maintaining a complement of scholars (aiming for a definite percentage of scholars by a given year as De La Salle is said to be envisioning), or fielding volunteer graduates to teach in the provinces (like Ateneo's Jesuit Volunteers Foundation). Miriam College has long subsidized an Adult Education Program in the evenings and on Saturdays for nearby indigent communities.

Some religious congregations maintain education support systems. St. Hannibal's Rogationists keep a fund to see the children of their 30 workers through school. And their Empowerment Center in Pasay screens bright students for scholarships.

Individuals who don't even have institutions or organizations to back them start only with an idea whose time has come. Eventually some such initiatives bloom into bigger endeavors. Attempting an entirely new field, Eggie Duran Apostol steered the Foundation for Worldwide People Power (FWWPP) into a potent education organization with its Adopt-a-School, Mentoring the Mentors and a clearing platform for other educational needs. Harvey Keh's dream has blossomed to Pathways to Higher Education, with 180 students under its wings. Rock Ed Philippines founded by young professionals like Therese Badoy and CP David tour campuses giving talks to "spark patriotism and good citizenship." Eduardo Fajardo through the Natividad Foundation sustains a couple of hundreds of scholars here and abroad.

Victoria and Christopher Vernido have put the Central Visayan Institute on the map with their innovative Dynamic Learning Process (DLP), a system high on excellence and reach, and low on time and manpower. A brainstorming group of young alumnae set in motion, the drive to reopen St. Theresa's College, Manila, against all odds. The Mother Redempta Pre-School of STCM Foundation opens in 2006.

Truly, in the time of drought, it is time to seek for a spring.

What can little you and little me do? This is the question a lot of confused and frustrated men and women of good will are asking themselves. Cousin Ignacio Maramba has upped and gone to do his bit for Sta. Barbara (Pangasinan) public elementary schools. He has brought primary education experts in Values, English, Math and Science from the FWWPP pool of mentors to conduct one-week seminars for the Sta. Barbara basic education teachers. He has already reached around 100 teachers and 11 principals.

My husband and I help with the tuition of a number of students in Laguna colleges. Every semester we check on their grades. They manage the Christmas party for the kids and serve as assistants in the medical mission.

The point is, you and I can do our bit—no bureaucracy, no fuss, no subsidy, no strings attached and suited to one's means. I believe that there is one child in every indigent family who is bright, who badly wants to study and badly needs help, like Jocelyn del Rosario of Monarck Foundation Technical Institute.

Your scholar may be in your hometown or right under your nose—part of your house help, your work force, your office. Seek one out. For every family—one scholar. Think of the multiplier effect.

But we're not bailing out government that has reneged on its job, stolen and diverted funds and corrupted the system. We're just helping ourselves and others.

Asuncion David Maramba is a book editor, retired professor and occasional journalist. Comments to marda@info.com.ph;fax 8210659

The right to dream

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

ONE OF THOSE POSH SHOPS, HOBBES AND LANDES, IS cooperating with Unicef to raise funds for children's programs by selling T-shirts, one of which has the rights of the child printed on the front and at the back, a long list that includes, among others, "the right to be born," "the right to be free" and "the right to express my own ideas."

For practical purposes, especially in the formulation of policies and programs, the rights are sometimes clustered into four groups: survival, development, protection and participation, with Unicef having developed indicators to measure progress around these rights. For example, for survival rights, the indicators include "all children are fully immunized against tuberculosis, DPT, polio and measles."

Cultural blindness

The indicators and the T-shirts are very important, but I worry at times if we give enough attention to working around the cultural dimensions, starting with a basic question: Is the very idea of "children's rights" something that exists out there in our homes?

In developing countries like our own where adult rights are barely respected, "children's rights" may be seen as strange, even ludicrous. Traditional views about children and childhood further aggravate this cultural blindness, the very young described as "*wala pang malay,*" not having any consciousness, human but not quite so.

Paradoxically, once they reach a certain age when they are perceived as having that consciousness, they're suddenly forced to live up to a whole slew of social expectations, weighed down with responsibilities but without rights. Child labor is an example. It's there because parents expect the child to help the family survive and all the law can offer is a prohibition on working children.

This cultural blindness adversely affects a nation's future. We complain all the time about the dismal state of the Philippines, forgetting that we are paying for earlier generations of Filipinos neglecting the rights of our young, sometimes out of the cultural blindness I just described, and sometimes simply because we don't care. And as we continue with this neglect, we create more problems that will burden future generations.

'Notoryus'

There is no lack of materials on how we might want to move forward with an agenda for children's rights, but a new book from Ateneo de Manila's Institute of Philippine Culture (IPC) reminds us of the need to work on the rights of urban children. With the majority of Filipinos now living in urban areas, the book takes on greater urgency.

"Making Philippine Cities Child-Friendly" is edited by Mary Racelis and Angela Desiree Aguirre, a product of research that compared 27 urban barangays with and without child-friendly initiatives by local governments. (A quick disclosure, with a bit of boasting: Racelis is now "shared" by Ateneo's IPC as well as the anthropology department at UP Diliman.)

We find graphic descriptions of the problems children face: malnutrition, drug abuse, child labor, sexual abuse and overall, living dangerously day to day. We've seen the photos, but it's always important to be reminded through books like this one.

I tend to speed-read, but I could not help but pause, and grieve, over one short reference to a 4-year-old working in a dump. I was disturbed, too, by the stories about fraternities: Names like Angel Demon, Salbahe, Antrax (Anti-Terorrism and Remove All X [Wrong]" and Notoryus tell us of how the adult world's aggression and violence hold a perverse appeal for the young. Antrax obviously came from the early attempts of terrorist groups in the United States to wage biological warfare with anthrax spores. "Notoryus," on the other hand, is the title of a local action film that had Victor Neri in the lead role.

The girls are catching up as well with sororities and little gangs. We read about a group called Sex Bomb, composed of six female out-of-school cousins who roam their barangay picking fights.

Mouth of babes

The research is particularly powerful when it uses anthropological methods, with its emphasis on getting the children themselves to explain their situation, the approach itself speaking of a child's right to be heard.

Sarah, 14 and from Davao, explains what we often overlook when we complain about under-achieving students: "I cannot study well because I spend most of my time caring for my younger siblings. I am expected to do this, being the eldest child, since my mother is often away working."

Most disconcerting is the way the children's stories are filled with words like "*bubugan*" (beatings), "*sabunutan*" (brawling), "*barilan*" (exchange of gunfire). Even "*habulan*" (chases) takes on a new meaning, conveying the grim reality of children becoming easy prey in our urban jungles, sometimes even victimized by other children. Elena, 11, describes how among homeless children, the older kids will grab food and money from the younger ones, sometimes even beating them up.

On the bright side, we get stories of what can be done, from child protection programs to the creation of parks and other green spaces. Young children, for example, told researchers that when they're subjected to excessive punishment, they "warn" their parents that they'd call the Bantay Bata hotline.

One young man describes what happened with his community after it had been cleaned up: "*Parang nakatira sa probinsya, kung saan may mga kalsada, puno, at may kalawakan sa pagitan ng mga bahay* (It's like living in the provinces, with trees by the roads and wide spaces between the houses)."

The book does note that "with some exceptions," Metro Manila administrators "still appear apprehensive about providing services to informal settlers," fearful that they will attract more "squatters."

But there lies the dilemma of urbanization in a country like the Philippines. We fear the poor, and their children, yet we need them for cheap labor to work in our factories, clean our homes, even take care of our children. So we tolerate them, keep them barely surviving, with occasional doles for the children.

There will be limits to this situation, as discontent constantly threatens to boil over. As the economic and political situation worsens, it will be the children who will suffer the most, creating more resentment among their parents.

I would like to think that today's young will remember how as we struggled through this crisis, we found ways to keep them in school, built them parks and recreation sites, comforted them when they were fearful and anxious, hungry and sick. Whatever we do will never be enough, but let it not be said that we denied the children the right to dream, and I mean this in the Filipino sense of the word "*pangarap*," not just fanciful daydreaming, but a concrete hoping and aspiring for the future.

Dangerous territory

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

HERE'S THE CONCLUSION OF A BACKgrounder on women and Philippine movies that I wrote for the First Feminist Centennial Film Festival, ongoing at the Edsa Shangri-La Cineplex:

Marilou Diaz Abaya had but a few movies to her credit when she decided to embark on a trilogy of films that dared explore the then dangerous territory of feminist issues, such as motherhood, sexuality, choice, violence, abortion and autonomy—challenging society's silence and complicity in maintaining the patriarchal order. Her collaborator on the trilogy of "Moral," "Brutal" and "Karnal" was screenwriter Ricky Lee who told an interviewer that he mined the stories in the movies from the lives of his women friends.

National Artists for Film Lino Brocka and Ishmael Bernal, as well as noted director Mike de Leon, also made movies that explored varied aspects of Filipino women's realities.

Lino Brocka is credited with providing Nora Aunor the venue to explore her talent beyond the commercial pap to which her status as a teen idol and the darling of the masses would have condemned her. From super-sweet musicales that had her doing nothing more challenging than posing sweetly with her various love team partners, Nora went on to make films that not only de-glamorized her, but, with the help of Brocka, explored social, political, spiritual and sexual issues. She even put her money on the line, producing a few films that broadened her range and allowed added venues for non-commercial work.

Ishmael Bernal was at his best in social commentary, and in Vilma Santos he found his ideal "Everywoman," whose broad (and enduring) appeal and naturalistic acting allowed him to explore contemporary mores and shifting man-woman relationships. But an "iconic" role for Vilma is that of "Sister Stella L.," directed by Mike de Leon for Regal Films, which had Vilma playing a nun reluctantly drawn into the gritty world of labor disputes and political dissent and, after a personal encounter with violence, becomes herself a leader of the struggle.

* * *

NORA and Vilma have dominated the local movie scene since they emerged as teen idols in the early 1970s. And in many ways, despite the emergence of a "Megastar" like Sharon Cuneta, they have never really stepped down from their thrones. Such a stature they have earned by way of not just box-office receipts and critical acclaim, but also by the exercise of courageous creativity and the pursuit of a vision for Philippine film.

In this they have been aided by women producers who, despite the impending "death" of the Philippine film industry (heralded for decades now), persist in bringing movies to a Philippine audience.

Undoubtedly the dominant (remaining) producer of this era, and since the 1970s, is "Mother" Lily Monteverde. Her feverish pace of yesteryears may now have slowed to a trickle, due to the harsh economic times, but the few movies Regal makes today are a step above her commercial and even exploitative titles of decades back. It's said that Mother Lily had made an agreement with Brocka, Bernal and other "quality" directors that for every commercial movie they made for her, she would bankroll an "artistic" effort. The agreement, if true, managed to produce a bumper crop of awards for Regal, but none of these "award-winning" movies really made money for Mother Lily. Today, even without the influence of Brocka and Bernal, and despite the tepid market response to local movies, Regal's latest releases have been making strong statements about women and have brought to the audience powerful female role models, from a nun whose rape becomes the impetus to discover her true sexual nature to Chinese immigrant wives and their daughters struggling against feudal restrictions, parental control and abusive husbands.

Providing brisk competition to Mother Lily's studio is Star Cinema, under the direction of Charo Santos Concio, who entered the world of show business as an excellent award-winning performer but found her true calling as a producer. Under her leadership, Star Cinema has produced some of the most powerful films of recent years, touching on such issues as migration and overseas work, family conflict, the Muslim rebellion and even single motherhood. Noteworthy is Star Cinema's commitment to cinematic excellence, as well as its stable of women directors and writers who are worthy inheritors of the legacy that Filipino women—as performers, producers, directors and writers—have left in the world of local cinema.

* * *

A READER named Elmer writes in connection with a previous column in which I wrote about the complaint of Cypress Rivera regarding her brand-new Hyundai Matrix from Hyundai Alabang, which completely broke down just a few months after she purchased it. The car dealer, to this day, has refused to replace the defective unit and has offered only to do repairs.

Elmer writes that he and his wife also purchased the same car brand from the same dealer last June. But, he says, "after three months of use, there were technical flaws ... leakage of oil from the turbo pipe (and) the engine (began) emitting irritating fumes." He adds that the car engine also became so noisy "contrary to Hyundai's representation that the diesel technology installed in their vehicles is smooth and noiseless."

Like Rivera, says Elmer, they purchased a brand-new unit because they wanted to invest in a car that won't give them "vehicular headaches." Instead, he adds, "I cannot believe that the car is just three months old and here we are now undergoing repairs. Our fear for the coming months (is) what will be the next problem? Or worse, what will happen to our car after the three-year warranty (expires)?"

Seems Hyundai Alabang has many more questions to answer.

Film exchange with China

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

BEIJING, CHINA—AS PART OF THE CELEBRAtion of the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Philippines and the People's Republic of China, the two countries exchanged films. In Manila, the Chinese films were shown in a theater packed to standing-room capacity. This was one occasion where "insistent public demand" required that the festival be extended for another week. For the past three years China has been holding a film festival in Manila, but it was only last Wednesday that the very first Philippine film festival opened in Beijing.

Philippine Airlines recently opened a direct service from Manila to Beijing and, thanks to Dr. Lucio Tan, six films that included "Jose Rizal," "Magnifico," "Crying Ladies" and "Milan," were flown to China with a small delegation that included National Artist for Film Eddie Romero, young directors Jeffrey Jeturian and Elvert Banares, and actress Angel Aquino. It is hoped that the exchange of films between our countries will just be the beginning of other activities related to the film industry, like the preservation and restoration of old films as well as co-production of a feature film.

The last project is acceptable to the Philippines and China, but they have to agree first on funding and a storyline. Offhand one can think of the interminable "Mano Po" series, or if we want to go historical, maybe a stylized documentary on the life of Jose Ignacio Paua, a full-blooded Chinese who fought during the Philippine Revolution and became a general in Emilio Aguinaldo's army. Or perhaps we could do a rags-to-riches, "Maalala Mo Kaya" type of film on one of the taipans in Manila, except that it would make them or members of their families more attractive to kidnappers.

Two decades ago, Romero and his Chinese counterpart, Xiao Lang, collaborated on "Hari sa Hari," a period film on the visit of the Sultan of Sulu to China in the 15th century. This is no fairy tale and it is hoped that Filipino students learn either from the film or their textbooks that long before Magellan was even conceived, long before the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and the Philippines, long before the archipelago even got its present name and formed into one geographic unit or a modern nation we have had cultural, economic and personal ties with China.

It is a pity that Vic Vargas, who played the part of the sultan, has passed away, because a reunion was arranged by the Chinese State Administration for Film Radio and Television between Romero and Wang Xingang, who played the part of the emperor. The meeting was cordial, with Romero breaking the ice by saying, "I recognize you even without the moustache." Wang then laughed in a normal off-camera way rather than the exaggerated Peking Opera laugh that became his trademark in the film. One wonders why Chinese emperors always laugh in a way that is a cross between jolly Santa Claus and the type that villains always belt out when plotting against the hero.

While all this activity was going on, I concentrated on the food. It is reassuring to note that roast Beijing duck can actually be found and enjoyed in the Chinese capital, because most Filipinos will be shocked to discover that there is no *lumpiang Shanghai*, as we know it, in Shanghai, and no *pancit Canton* in Canton.

Come to think of it, I have not seen a single "Ped Xing" sign in any of the streets in Beijing. Numerous readers have requested me to write a column about the life of the great Chinese general Ped Xing, who is commemorated with an eye-catching street sign along Roxas Boulevard between Malate Church and Lito Atienza's Baywalk. But then "Ped Xing" is short for pedestrian crossing.

The most memorable meal of this trip was in the Quanjude Roast Duck restaurant that has enjoyed a history, having been founded in 1864, the third year of the Tongzhi, Qing dynasty. We had authentic Beijing duck that came with a card stating that we were served the 139,256th duck proudly roasted by the restaurant since 1864.

In Manila, my father demands the passport of the roast duck, suspicious that we are being served Pateros duck that has seen the end of its *balut*-producing days.

Also in Manila, Peking duck is taken three ways: First the skin of the duck and some of the meat are served in thin steamed pancake wrapper garnished with leeks and or cucumber and given a dash of that black but sweet *hoisin* sauce. The duck is then sent back to the kitchen where the rest of the meat is minced and eaten in crisp iceberg lettuce, again with *hoisin* sauce. The bones are boiled into a delicious soup, a fitting end to a cholesterol rich meal. At Peking Garden in Makati you can opt to have the bones deep-fried and served crisp with spices rather than the soup.

In Quanjude restaurant, you are first served the deep-fried liver of the duck rolled into three different shapes, followed by the delicately shaped and sliced heart, then the most tasty party part which is the neck. We did not have duck tongues and the skin and meat could be wrapped in the pancake wrapper or a small crunchy sesame seed bun much like a duck hamburger. I played culinary Russian roulette, braving the risk of bird flu by having authentic Beijing duck. Now I can go to heaven.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Press must be free

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED FACULTY members of the University of the Philippines College of Mass Communication (UP CMC), find the statement that President Macapagal-Arroyo made last Nov. 10 before the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas (KBP) in Baguio City disturbing. As quoted by the media, she said that the media must cast aside their "bad boy" image by focusing on what the public wants—winners. According to her, "the economy is the only winner here today amid these losers who carry no public mandate."

The President should be reminded that the mass media are not just harbingers of good or bad news. They report events based on the time-tested elements of news. On the other hand, the gatekeepers of information decide which should be printed, aired or uploaded not only on the basis of what the public wants, but also on what the public needs. The media serve as watchdogs of the government and are therefore duty-bound to report all important events, regardless of how the concerned government institutions and officials are portrayed.

President Arroyo should know how media organizations function. Being aware of the workings of the press is a crucial step to knowing the role of an independent mass media in national development.

There are journalists who have lived up to the highest standards of journalism, and some of them mattered enough to be harassed, intimidated and even murdered. Instead of being concerned about media's alleged loss of credibility, the President should focus on bringing the perpetrators of violence against media practitioners to justice.

If the President wants to help mass media, she should address the fundamental issue of justice for murdered journalists. No one has been convicted for the 70 murders of journalists that have occurred since 1986.

While it is imperative for the President to leave the media alone in terms of what they should report, it is incumbent upon this administration to ensure that journalists can work in an atmosphere where they can properly exercise their profession without being harassed or threatened with violence.

—NICANOR G. TIONGSON AND 14 FACULTY MEMBERS, College of Mass Communication, University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City

Vandals should be dealt with properly

AN INTENSIFIED DRIVE TO RID Metro Manila of unsightly graffiti and other forms of vandalism should be spearheaded immediately by the Metro Manila Development Authority in time for the Southeast Asian Games this November.

Local government officials, nongovernment organizations and other civic-minded citizens should lend a helping hand in cleaning and beautifying our towns and cities even without an event of this magnitude.

A crackdown of vandals defacing walls belonging to the government or a private entity should be launched immediately, and culprits should be put behind bars to teach them a lesson or two.

Vandalism, after all, has no place in a society where the rule of law is strictly enforced.

—PEDRO REFUERZO JR., 6737 Taylo St., Makati City

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

In bad taste

I AM WRITING THIS LETTER TO SET the record straight in connection with the negative publicity that marred the musical performance of Ateneo HS '55, dubbed "On Wings of Song, One Big Flight," at the Meralco Theater last Nov. 15. It is apparent that a great many people are blaming the members of the class for ostensibly allowing the golden jubilee presentation to degenerate into a political polemic against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

As a member of the class which has adopted President Estrada as one of its own, I wish to make this apology—on behalf of the Eagle HS '55 Foundation Inc.—to those who bought tickets for the concert, the audience, to the Ateneo de Manila University and to Fr. Joaquin Bernas who, along with dozens of others, walked out when Sen. Jinggoy Estrada started reading his father's "Ateneo did not teach me to lie, cheat and steal" speech.

The truth of the matter is that the great majority of the foundation's members did not know that the concert would be transformed into a propaganda platform to malign the current administration. Except for three or four people, the great majority of the alumni, including the 30 performers, were caught flatfooted by the reading of Erap's speech, which certainly was out of place in an occasion meant to be an opportunity for fun and togetherness.

It will be truly unfortunate if the members of Ateneo High School's Class of '55 were equally pilloried by the public for this exhibition of bad taste. We ask for their understanding and forgiveness.

—RICARDO M. LACSON, Ateneo High School '55, Makati City

Enough is enough?

VOICES ON INQ7.NET

WHETHER PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARroyo committed fraud or not, she's the best for this country. You cannot run the country with a beginner in politics, previously an actor (mercy on his soul and my respects to his family). Even if Ms Arroyo steals, or is a cheat or a fraud, she still is the best to run this country smoothly with confidence and create more jobs. Her finance team is the best ever in Philippine history. The Garci tape may be true or false—that is the habit of Filipinos around the world. They love making *sipsip* (bootlicking) and listening to rumors.

I ask you to be realistic and push forward for the sake of the country. See the countries around you, where they are now and compare them to where the Philippines is—still behind and going further backwards because of some narrow-minded or paid people sent out to disturb businesses and the government. This will backfire. They are wasting their time and the government's time. My advice is to back your government, let it work and it will really support you. No government in the world wishes misery for its people.—**Alawi S. Saeed Abdulla, Kingdom of Bahrain (via e-mail)**

* * *

If more than 80 percent of Filipinos could only have the opportunity to air their views here, the trickle of sentiments on your pages would surely turn into torrents of angry opinions calling for the President to vanish from where she illegally sits and be gone forever.

Recent history proved that the communist ideology failed in countries where it once existed. It would surely fail in the Philippines because many of its adherents are more likely to be as corrupt as the leaders of the former communist nations or as greedy as most Filipino politicians.

I never believed that communism would solve the world's problems, much less the Philippines', but then some well-meaning socialist thinkers coined lines which I would like to use in appealing to my fellow countrymen all over the world.

Overseas and local Filipino workers are the backbone of our nation. Based on recent estimates, there are about 8 million Filipino workers abroad. Granting that each has five close relatives back home who depend on him/her for their well-being, and who do not have to depend on the promises of politicians to live a better life, we can help make a better nation or break the chain of continued and prevalent corruption.

We could be a force to reckon with if only we could unite for the salvation of our nation and the betterment of our people.—**Ramon Mayuga, Esse, Germany (via e-mail)**

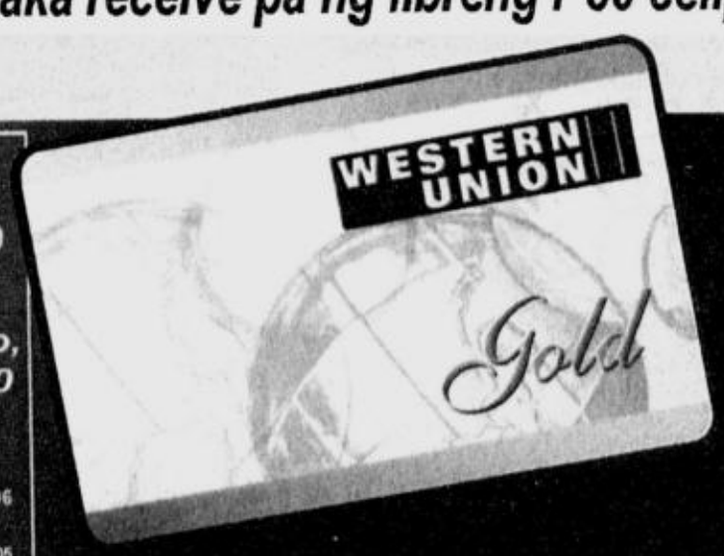
IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@ inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

Introducing, Western Union Gold Card!

Naka send na siya ng pera,
naka receive pa ng libreng ₱30 cellphone load!

BONUS REWARD
Sign-up at sa unang gamit mo, may libreng ₱30 cellphone load.
PROMO PERIOD: October 1, 2005 - January 31, 2006
See flyers for details.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1860, Series of 2005



- Free ₱30 cellphone load sa bawat 2 padala.
- APPLY NOW, libre 'to!
- Call 888-1200 (Metro Manila), 1-800-1-888-1200 (outside MM) for details.

WESTERN UNION MONEY TRANSFER

WATCH OUT FOR THE WESTERN UNION GOLD CARD APPLICATION BOOTH IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS: Glorietta (Nov. 11-17); Greenhills (Nov. 11-17); Market Market (Nov. 11-17), Tutuban Mall (Nov. 11-13,18-20, 25-27 & Dec. 2-4, 9-11); Divisoria Mall (Nov. 11-13,18-20, 25-27 & Dec. 2-4, 9-11); Gaisano Mall Davao (Nov. 11-13,18-20, 25-27 & Dec. 2-4, 9-11); Ayala Center Cebu (Nov. 11-13,18-20, 25-27 & Dec. 2-4, 9-11); CSI Mall Dagupan (Nov. 11-13,18-20, 25-27 & Dec. 2-4, 9-11); NBI Camedo (Nov. 7-8,14-15); Malolos, Bulacan (Nov. 28-30 & Dec. 1-7) **PLEASE BRING VALID ID FOR APPLICATION**. FOR MORE DETAILS, YOU CAN CALL THE WESTERN UNION HOTLINE.

NEW! Instant PESO PADALA
₱39 lang. Abot-Kaya. Abot Agad.
Sa ₱500-padala.

TEAM LBC
HARI NG PADALA!

NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU
Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
10 Happy Glen Loop, Baguio City
Tel. No. (074)443-9255
Fax No. (074)443-8971
E-mail: inq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU
23 Aurora St., Old Albay District
Legazpi City
Tel. No. (052) 820-6402
Fax No. (052) 820-1274
E-mail: inq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

Across the NATION

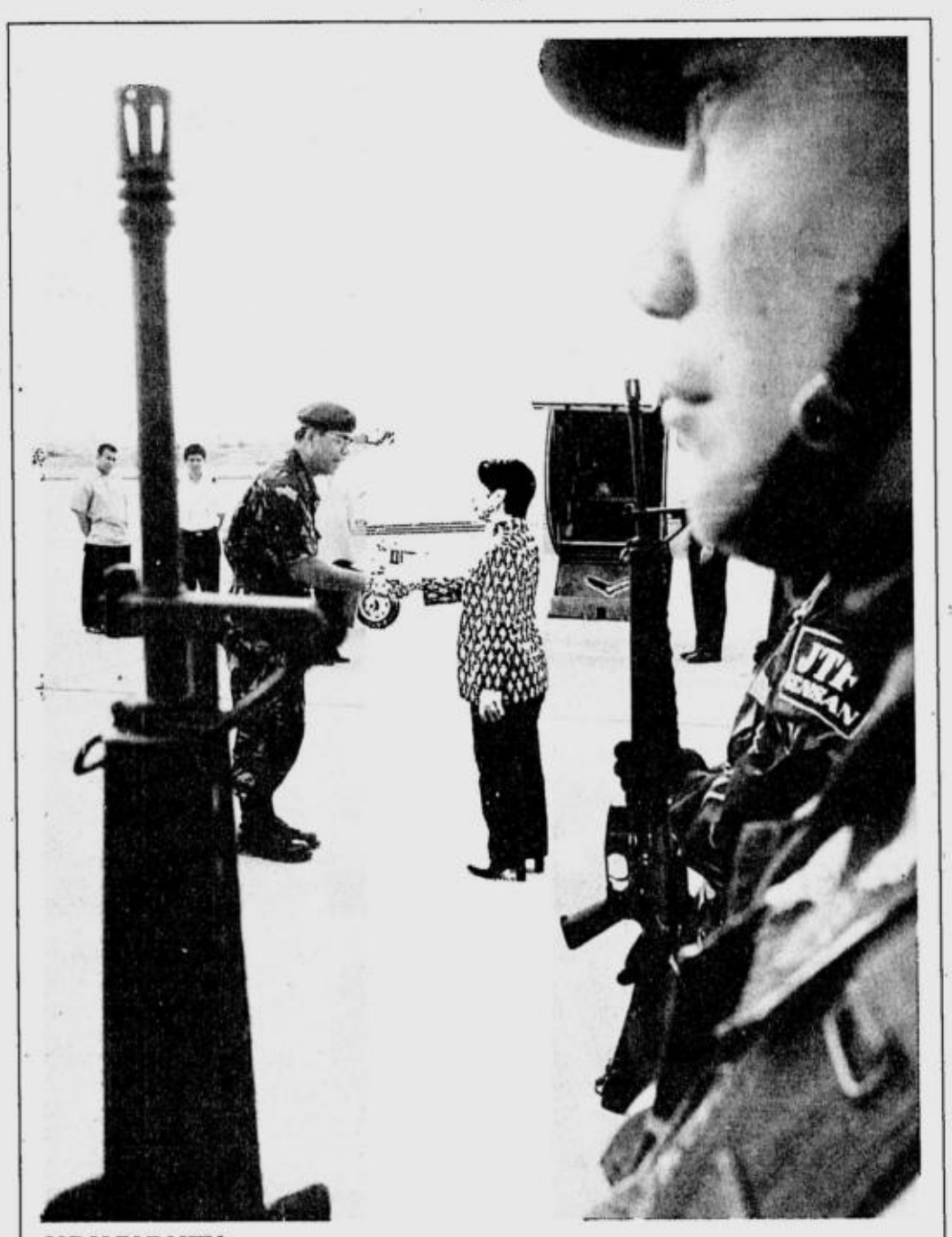
E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback: inquirer atn name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) *Assistant Editor* **Tony Bergonia**

VISAYAS BUREAU
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346/233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail: inq_cebu@inquirer.com.ph

MINDANAO BUREAU
FEP Printing Corp. Bldg.
Ma-a Road, Davao City
Tel. No. (082)244-1770 to 71
Fax No. (082)244-1771
E-mail: inq_davao@inquirer.com.ph

MILF to propose vote on Moro state



HEAVY DUTY JERRY CARUAL/MALACANANG PHOTO

A soldier stands in attention as President Macapagal-Arroyo arrives at the New Capitol Site Grounds in Barangay Kenram in Sultan Kudarat Nov. 22 to inspect government projects there.

COTABATO CITY—THE MORO ISLAMIC LIBERATION Front (MILF) said it would propose the holding of a plebiscite with the aim of creating "a separate homeland (for Moros) in Mindanao."

Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesperson, said the proposal, which would be coursed through the MILF peace panel, could be finalized as early as next year after the rebel group has finished a series of consultations with the Moro people and lumad communities.

One of the issues being asked in the consultations is ancestral domain, one of the two remaining issues confronting government and MILF negotiators.

The government and the MILF have been negotiating to resolve the decades-old Moro rebellion, which already claimed hundreds of thousands of lives since it first broke out in the 1960s.

Jun Mantawil, head of the MILF peace panel secretariat, said the MILF already met tribal leaders from Bukidnon, Columbio in Sultan Kudarat, Davao provinces, and the Zamboanga Peninsula.

The result of the consultations would be presented when the peace negotiations resume.

"Legally and historically, Mindanao is the homeland of the Moro people," Kabalu said when asked why the MILF still want a separate state.

However, he said the MILF is also willing to compromise on its demand for a separate republic for Moros in Mindanao.

Moro and indigenous peoples account for less than half of the population in Mindanao.

"We recognize that we are only minority. Our proposal for a separate homeland will only be confined to areas where Moros are majority," Kabalu said.

He said when the peace talks are concluded, areas with large Moro communities would also be asked if they are in favor of the agreement or not.

As efforts to strike a peace agreement continue, military planes continued to attack suspected lairs of Moro gunmen fighting the government in Indanan, Sulu as two more soldiers died since hostilities resumed on Tuesday.

As Brig. Gen. Alexander Aleo, commander of the Task Force Comet, was speaking before a large crowd in Jolo during the celebration of the "Week of Peace," bomb explosions could be heard. *Jeoffrey Maitem, Ed General and Julie Alipala, PDI M. Bureau*

25 journalists attend safety seminar in Davao

DAVAO CITY—At LEAST 25 JOURNALists from all over the country attended the two-day workshop on Safety Training for Journalists here, which ended Tuesday.

The training, which was held as the Philippines was identified as the most dangerous place for journalists next to Iraq, was conducted by the Belgium-based International News Safety Institute (INSI) and the Community Center for Journalism and Development (CCJD).

During the training, journalists—mostly from Mindanao—were taught to reduce risks by becoming aware of the threat to their safety and to identify potential risks during coverage in hostile environment such as wars, natural calamities and other dangerous events.

The safety training module given to the journalists also included dealing with demonstrators during coverage who turn into a hostile crowd against reporters.

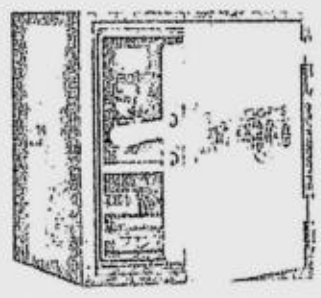
The participants were also taught techniques of responding to a situation when a colleague becomes a victim of violence like being shot at in the course of war coverage.

Heather Allen, who had six years of military experience with the British Special Air Service (SAS), stressed the importance of communication especially if journalists work as a team.

She said it would help journalists if they talk about their coverage because this would help prepare them for possible risks. *Grace Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

diplomat SAFE LTD

YOUR BEST SOLUTION FOR YOUR PRIZED POSSESSION AGAINST FIRE AND THEFT.



A125

Top Quality Safe meeting the requirements of KS (Korea), SP (Sweden), UL (U.S.A), JIS (Japan) and GOST (Russia).

Distributed by: ASTECH PENGSON

MANILA (02) 634 8351 to 59
CEBU (032) 344-1185
DAVAO (082) 221-0585

ROUNDUP

Marijuana leads to arrests

CAMP DANGWA, Benguet—Police arrested three teenagers, aged 15 to 19, for transporting more than P770,000 worth of marijuana bricks along the Halsema Highway on Nov. 21. Reports from the Cordillera police office here said the three suspects, all natives of Kapangan town, were arrested in a checkpoint set up by the police at the intersection of the Halsema Highway and the Kapangan-Tublay Road. Police said the 23 bricks of dried marijuana leaves seized from the suspects weighed 31 kilograms and were contained in two carton boxes.

PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Swiss plays with gun, dies

CALAMBA CITY—A young Swiss died after the gun he was playing with accidentally went off while he was with his Filipino friends at a public market in Los Baños, Laguna on Wednesday night. Chief Insp. Marvin Saro, Los Baños police chief, identified the victim as Johans Ruedi, 23, who worked as an entertainer at a local bar in the town. Saro said a few minutes before the accident happened at around 7:30 p.m., the victim, together with his friends Rommel Palma and Marvin Seguito, went to the public market in Barangay Bayog to buy dried fish. While the three were waiting, Ruedi allegedly pulled out his unlicensed .38 cal. revolver and pointed the gun at his temple. The victim then told his friends that he is invincible from bullets because of his talisman. Saro said Palma and Seguito warned the victim not to play with the gun as it might scare the people at the market. "But as the two were moving away, the gun accidentally went off," Saro said.

Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Militiaman killed

COTABATO CITY—A militiaman was killed by a still unidentified gunman in Carmen, North Cotabato on Tuesday. Police reported on Thursday that the victim, Ricky Bento, was on his way home around 9 p.m. when gunned down along the national highway in Poblacion, Carmen. Police said the victim died of a bullet wound in the head.

Jeoffrey Maitem, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Rangers Club anniversary

THE RANGERS Club of Taal, Batangas will hold its 50th anniversary ball on Nov. 26 at the Town Plaza of Taal. Rep. Francis Escudero was invited as guest speaker while the other guests are MMDA chair Bayani Fernando and former Sen. Loren Legarda. Awards will be given to five people who trace their roots to Taal—Milagros Aliling, Fr. Victor Badillo, Ambassador Raul Goco, Rep. Rollo Golez and Dr. Domingo Landicho.

Congressman rides on 'Arrovo' controversy

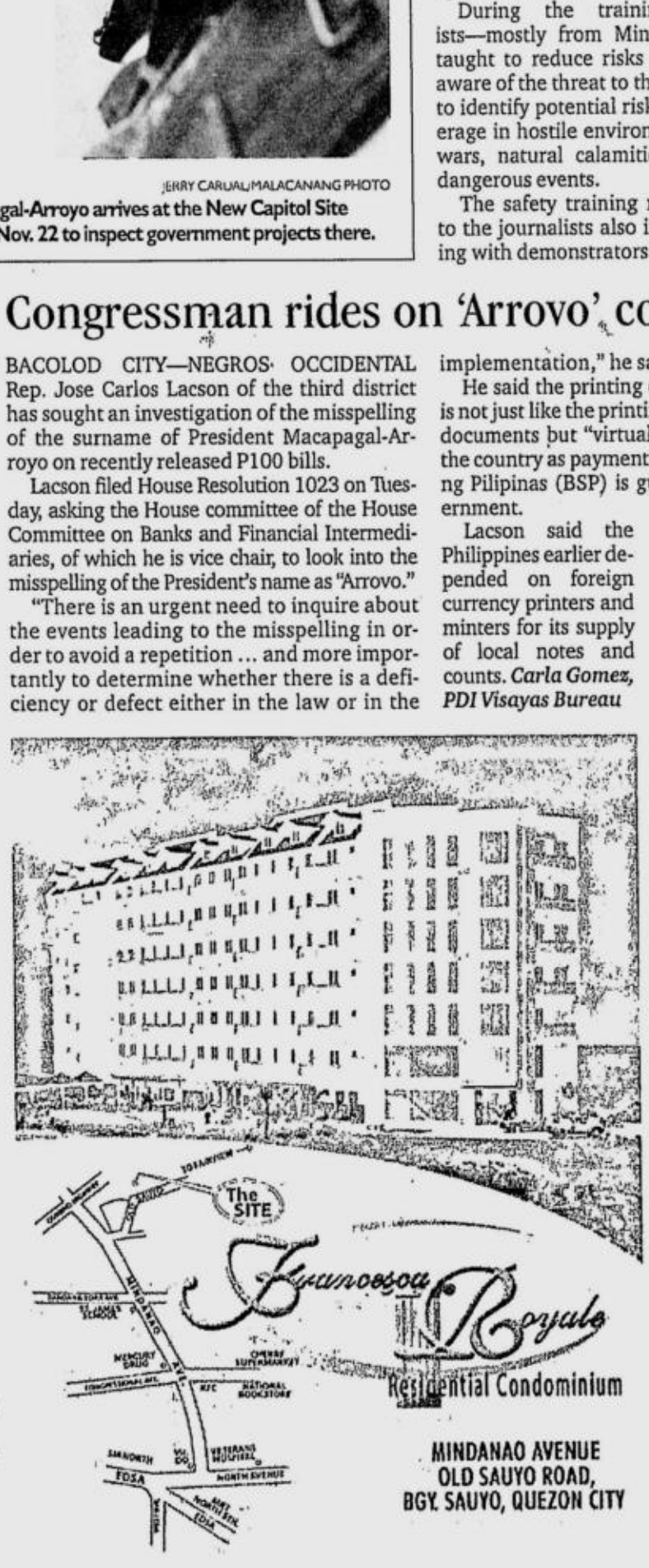
BACOLOD CITY—NEGROS OCCIDENTAL Rep. Jose Carlos Lacson of the third district has sought an investigation of the misspelling of the surname of President Macapagal-Arroyo on recently released P100 bills.

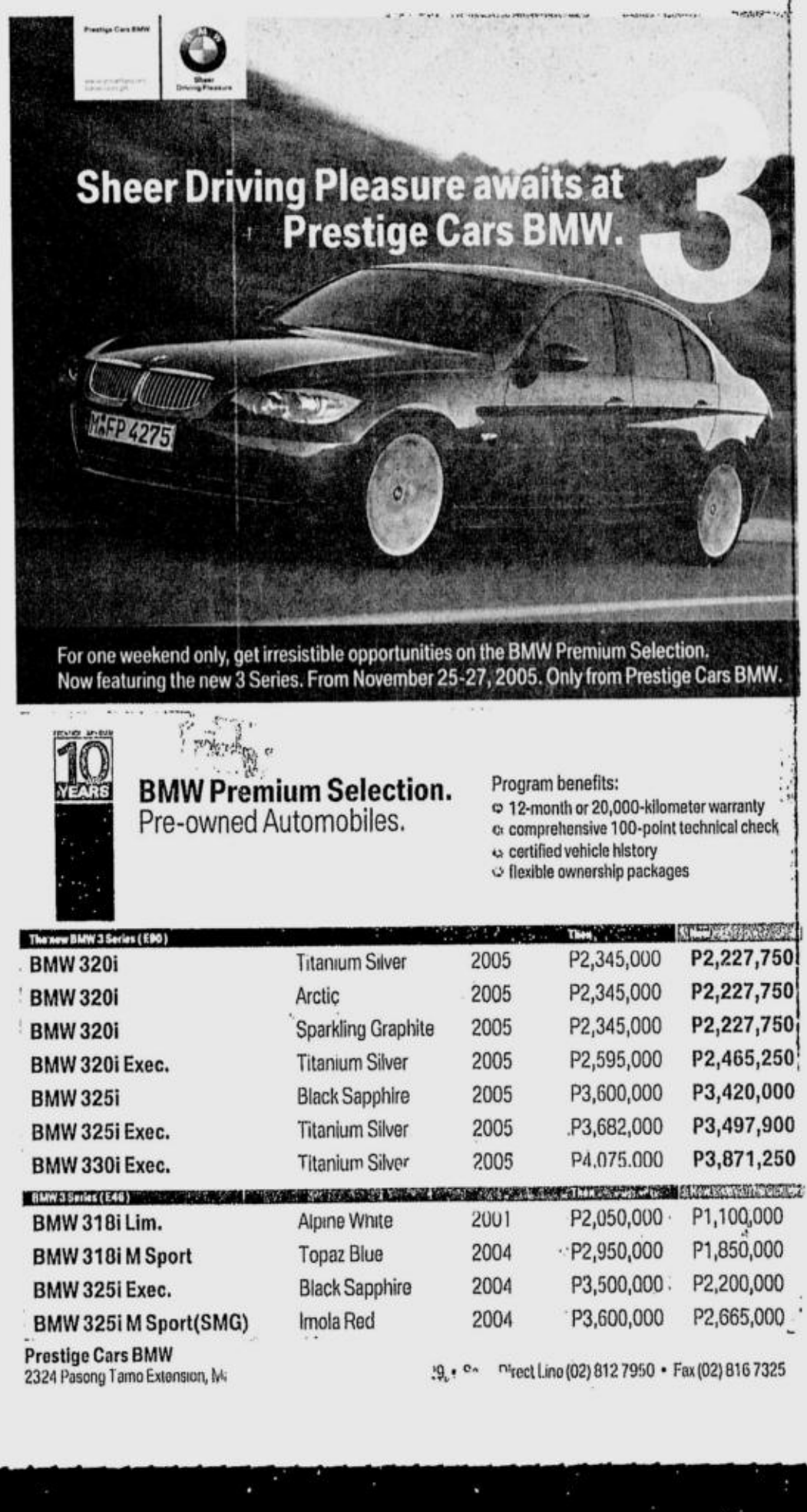
Lacson filed House Resolution 1023 on Tuesday, asking the House committee of the House Committee on Banks and Financial Intermediaries, of which he is vice chair, to look into the misspelling of the President's name as "Arrovo."

"There is an urgent need to inquire about the events leading to the misspelling in order to avoid a repetition ... and more importantly to determine whether there is a deficiency or defect either in the law or in the implementation," he said.

He said the printing of Philippine currency is not just like the printing of any other official documents but "virtually a sovereign act" of the country as payment by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) is guaranteed by the government.

Lacson said the Philippines earlier depended on foreign currency printers and minters for its supply of local notes and counts. *Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*



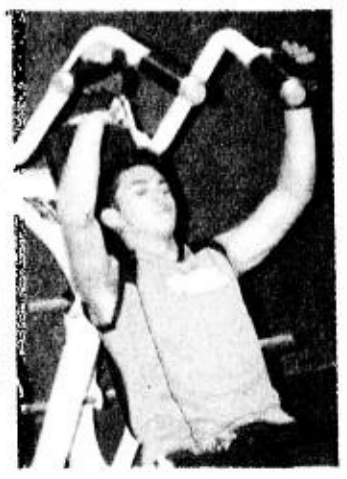


The new BMW 3 Series (E90)			Then	Now
BMW 320i	Titanium Silver	2005	P2,345,000	P2,227,750
BMW 320i	Arctic	2005	P2,345,000	P2,227,750
BMW 320i	Sparkling Graphite	2005	P2,345,000	P2,227,750
BMW 320i Exec.	Titanium Silver	2005	P2,595,000	P2,465,250
BMW 325i	Black Sapphire	2005	P3,600,000	P3,420,000
BMW 325i Exec.	Titanium Silver	2005	P3,682,000	P3,497,900
BMW 330i Exec.	Titanium Silver	2005	P4,075,000	P3,871,250
BMW 3 Series (E46)				
BMW 318i Lim.	Alpine White	2001	P2,050,000	P1,100,000
BMW 318i M Sport	Topaz Blue	2004	P2,950,000	P1,850,000
BMW 325i Exec.	Black Sapphire	2004	P3,500,000	P2,200,000
BMW 325i M Sport(SMG)	Imola Red	2004	P3,600,000	P2,665,000

Prestige Cars BMW
2324 Pasong Tamo Extension, M... Direct Line (02) 812 7950 • Fax (02) 816 7325

EAGLE RIDGE

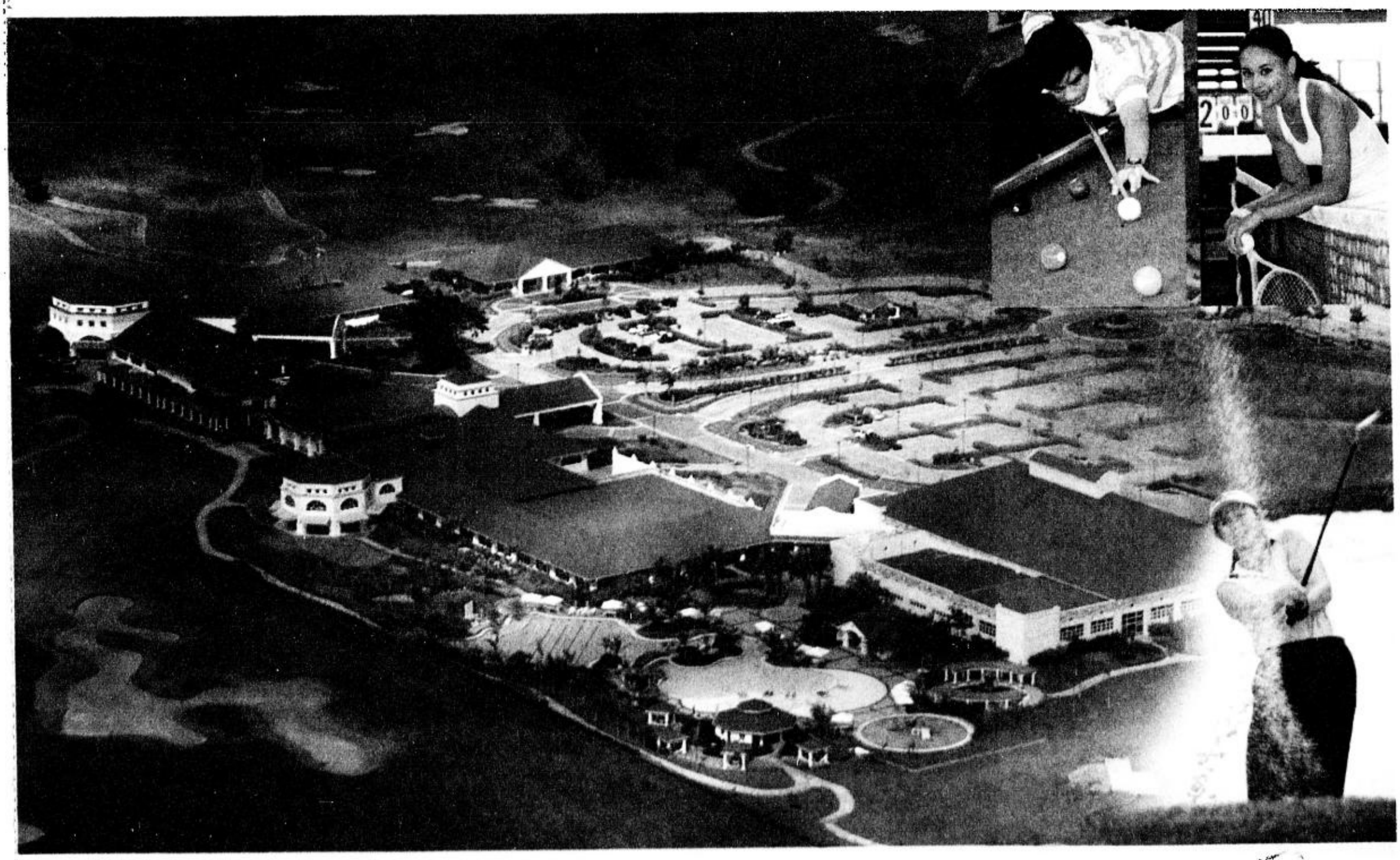
GOLF AND RESIDENTIAL ESTATES



Play a round of golf at any of four championship courses, or a game at any of the sports facilities

...and Stay for a weekend ... or forever at one of Asia's finest golf communities

OPEN HOUSE SATURDAY NOV 26, 2005



DEVELOPER

STA.LUCIA REALTY & DEVELOPMENT, INC.

DEVELOPER OF THE YEAR 2003

www.staluciarealty.com

LANDOWNER

ALSONS LAND CORPORATION

Fil-Estate Group of Marketing Companies

Tels.(02) 910-2744 • 635-4454 • 634-2295 • 637-2928 • 633-6191

License to sell no. 97-04-0056

New carols emerge from Pampanga competition

ANGELES CITY—PAMPANGA WILL celebrate a true Kapampangan Christmas with new native carols.

Pampanga-based composers have submitted 31 original Kapampangan carols to the first Christmas songwriting competition dubbed "Ligligan Kantang Pasku" at the Holy Angel University here on Dec. 16.

"The number of entries is totally unexpected. We are also delighted with the quality of the entries, and variety of genres," said Robby Tantingco, director of the university's Center for Kapampangan Studies.

Tantingco said the entries include love songs, polka, gospel and traditional "basulto."

He said those who submitted their original compositions include professional musicians, poets, priests, students and residents.

Some of the entries came from Kapampangans living in Mindanao and in the United States.

"This means our contest has struck a responsive chord among Kapampangan composers. All of a sudden, we have 31 brand-new Christmas songs and they are all in Kapampangan. From now on, our Christmas will be different. Kapampangans will truly have a Kapampangan Christmas," he said.

Tantingco said the entries would be performed and judged at the Center for Kapampangan Studies quadrangle on Dec. 16. The show is open to the public.

Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk

BABY SITTER EV ESPIRITU/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Gigantic wooden sculptures in Ifugao are companions of children in the province. This one in Banaue town is supposed to keep watch over this child, who takes his meals beside the sculpture, with which children are supposed to have more fun than watching TV.

Help pours in for villagers who fled war

LUCENA CITY—FOOD, MEDICINES and prayers continue to pour for the more than 5,000 evacuees from intense military operations against communist gunmen and who are now housed in various evacuation centers in Candelaria, Tiaong and Dolores towns.

Officials of Tanggol Kalikasan (Defense of Nature), a public interest environmental legal defense center, who turned their local office here into a relief operations center, said they have been continuously receiving donations of assorted relief goods, mostly foodstuff for the evacuees.

"Some of the donors said they also offered prayers and lighted candles for peace to return in the affected villages. They are sincerely hoping for the fighting to stop," Jay Lim, a TK community organizer, told the INQUIRER.

He said his group has already brought the first batch of relief goods to Dolores town on Wednesday.

Lim also disclosed that Quezon activist priest, Fr. Raul Enriquez, would also celebrate "Mass for Peace" in Dolores town and other war-torn villages.

"Fr. Raul has expressed serious concern for the refugees, especially for the children and the elderly," Lim said.

Dolores Mayor Rolando San Jose said the Regional Disaster Coordinating Council and the Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office have already delivered relief goods and medicines for the evacuees in his town.

"So far, we have sufficient stock of relief goods. We're hoping for the return of peace in our town as soon as possible," he said.

Quezon Rep. Proceso Alcala, who said he has been spending his own money for the relief goods that he's distributing in different evacuation centers, said he would negotiate for more relief goods from Manila government offices.

"I want to appeal to both protagonists in the armed conflict that if they could not stop their fighting, they should spare the civilians from any harm," the congressman said.

Maj. Jose Broso, spokesperson of the military's Southern Luzon Command based in Camp Nakar, said the military has been continuously conducting relief operations in the affected villages.

"While our men have been continuously staging clearing operations to flush out the rebels, our quick reaction teams composed of medical workers and social welfare officers provide moral and physical comfort to the evacuees," Broso said.

Residents from different villages in Dolores, Candelaria and Tiaong towns have fled their homes since Monday for fear of being caught in the crossfire between communist gunmen and government soldiers.

Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Transparency in mining industry urged

BAGUIO CITY—THE MINING INDUSTRY in the country must start being transparent to the public because foreign investors are still uncomfortable about local opposition to large-scale mining operations, foreign and local experts said here.

In a speech during the 52nd Mine Safety and Environment Conference last week, Graeme Deegan, an Australian expert in mining community relations who is often tapped for government and industry consultancy, said "mining will have a negative impact on the environment ... and will always will."

But by advocating a full accounting of the "sins" of the industry, experts like Deegan and geologist Rudy Obial believe that local communities will have all the pieces of information necessary to participate in the construction of a healthy mining town.

The "sins" refer to cases of old mines abandoned by defunct mining firms, and mining accidents such as those in Mt. Diwalwal and Albay.

Indigenous communities in Benguet, where the country's oldest mines were born and later abandoned, have already taken steps at correcting some of these bad practices.

Community work

If only to bring back the things to the way they were, Benguet farmers offered to restore or rehabilitate mining areas abandoned in Itogon town.

"All these mining corporations only wanted extraction and profit. The indigenous peoples are willing to rehabilitate these abandoned mines if the government will give them control of these resources," Fernando Mangili, secretary general of the farmers' group Apit-Tako, said in a press conference at the Cordillera Peoples Alliance office here also last week.

The group's biggest complaint is that mining firms have also abandoned the task of restoring mined out areas to the government.

Assistant Secretary Jeremias Dolino, of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, said the government has scheduled the restoration of seven abandoned mines in the country.

"The reason why the government is shouldering all the expenses for revitalization is because these mining companies have no budget at all," Dolino said.

But he said the government could only secure P50 million to rehabilitate Bagacay Mines in Western Samar alone.

Poor companies

Most of the conference experts were concerned about organized anti-mining campaigns, which disturb the industry despite progress made by the validation of the 1995 Philippine Mining Act by the Supreme Court in December last year.

Horacio Ramos, former Mines and Geosciences Bureau director, presented the latest Fraser survey of mining competitiveness during the conference.

The survey results revealed the discomfort that foreign mine investors have in Philippine politics and the government's commitment to push the mining industry.

But insights from the Fraser survey, which has been documenting the perspectives of 259 mine firms in 64 countries including the Philippines, still concentrated on the country's political uncertainties and investor unease in the government's ability to enforce its rules.

Vincent Cabreza and Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Bid to bring Mindanao peace reaches soccer field in Davao

THEIR ELDERS MAY still be killing each other in some conflict areas in Mindanao. But for some children from Christian, Muslim and lumad communities, their battleground is a soccer field of fun where the ultimate dream is a land of peace.

The Davao Football Association (DFA), in cooperation with the city government of Davao through the office of Councilor Mabel Sunga-Acosta and the German Development Cooperation through the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ), will hold the Acosta Cup Ladies Football Festival and the Mindanao Week of Peace Football Festival on Nov. 26 at the Tionko Football Grounds in Agro, Quimpo Blvd., Davao City.

Together with renowned back-to back national champions, the female football players of Davao, the soccer bonanza will involve youth players in Davao aged 6-12 years old with categories for boys and girls.

In a press statement, organizers said participants will come from Christian, Muslims and lumad who will represent their organizations coming from the various sectors, districts, schools and non-government organizations involved in programs for the poor, youth, and women.

Aside from the games, there will be exhibits, musical performances and video film showing related to the Mindanao Week of Peace Celebration with the theme "Women and Youth, Partners in Peacebuilding."

Guests who were invited to the affair include Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte, Rep. Mabel Sunga-Acosta, presidential assistant Jesus Dureza; Linda Schaeffer, Philippine Football Federation (PFF) representative; Dr. Ute Hubner, of the GTZ office in Manila and sector adviser on poverty alleviation and conflict management, and leaders of the Bishop-Ulama Conference.

The opening ceremony will start at 8 am at the Tionko Football Grounds.

This will also serve as the launching program for a series of football festivals that will be conducted early next year in all the other provincial football associations all over Mindanao by the GTZ through their GIFT Program (German Initiative In Football Towards Peace in Mindanao).

The festivity, showcasing the talents of more than a thousand children in Davao, augurs well for football grassroots development project which breeds topnotch players for their soccer teams in national competitions.

And while the children are still far from bringing World Cup glory to the country, their fierce rivalries in the field could echo a message of hope for a generation of soccer-loving peacemakers.

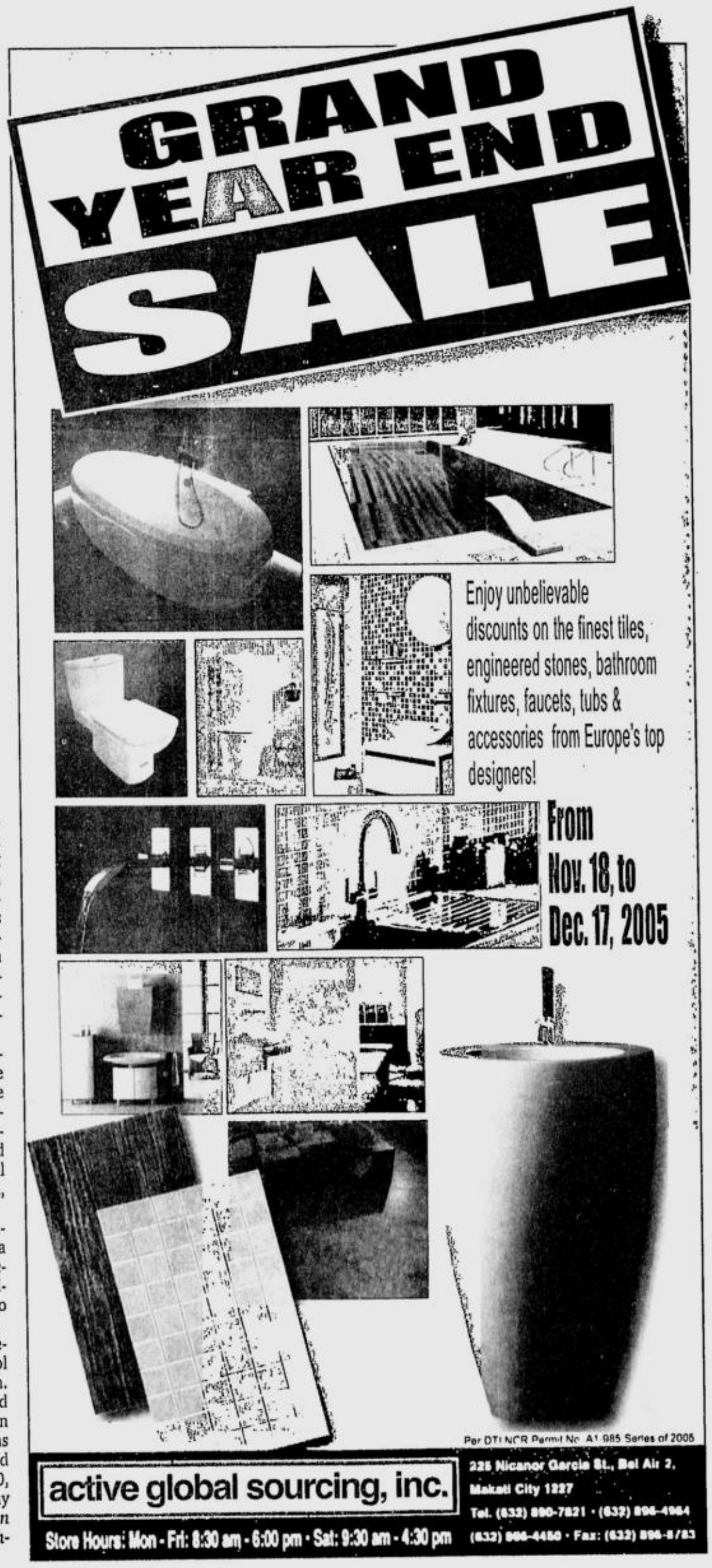
Cops bust rob gang preying on Indians

CALAMBA CITY—POlice said they busted a robbery group preying on Indian nationals in Laguna after the arrest of three suspects who were caught robbing their victims in Barangay Bagong Kalsada this city on Wednesday afternoon, police said yesterday.

Supt. Roland Bustos, Calamba police chief, identified the suspects as Ernan Hetape, 23; Ronaldo Jalmasco, 29; and Artemio Acero, 27; all of Barangay Mamatid, Cabuyao, Laguna.

He said the suspects belonged to a group of robbers victimizing Indian businessmen who are into the lending business.

Bustos said policemen were on patrol at around 1 p.m. when they chanced upon a group of men arguing with victims Jun Singh, 33, and his wife Marlyn, 30, resident of Barangay Pansol. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*



What? No basketball? SWS poll sees big letdown

THE EXCLUSION OF BASKETBALL from the 23rd Southeast Asian Games is a big disappointment for Filipinos since it is one of the two sports events with the greatest public expectation of winning a medal, according to the Third Quarter 2005 Social Weather Survey.

To the question "In what sports do you expect the Philippines to win any medals at the coming SEA Games?" basketball (44 percent) and boxing (43 percent) were statistically tied as the top answers, with 14 sports groups named by at least 1.5 percent in the SWS survey.

Next in the public's expectations for Philippine medals were swimming (18 percent) and billiards (16 percent).

They were followed by athletics (14 percent), volleyball (12 percent), martial arts (10 percent), bowling (6 percent), chess (5 percent), tennis (4 percent), badminton (3 percent), football (3 percent), fencing (2 percent) and baseball/softball (2 percent).

The Third Quarter 2005 Social Weather Survey was done on Aug. 26-Sept. 5, using face-to-face interviews of a national sample of 1,200 statistically representative adults.

Southeast Asia's royals coming for SEA Games

From page A1

capital.

A total of 441 gold medals are up for grabs in 41 events, with the Philippine martial art arnis as well as ballroom dancing making their debuts.

Tight security

Security is tight with a 17,000-strong police force on alert to ensure the safety of the thousands of athletes and officials taking part.

The Games, coupled with the approaching Yuletide season, will boost foreign tourist arrivals and help the government meet its target of 2.6 million inbound travelers this year, Philippine Tourism Authority General Manager Robert Barbers said.

"We are expecting an upsurge in tourism receipts that would surpass last year's record and hopefully sustain this positive growth up to the first quarter of next year. The country's tourist stakeholders, the national and local governments are all prepared to take advantage of this situation," Barbers said.

Not only members of foreign delegations but also their family members, friends, fans and game enthusiasts from Southeast Asia and elsewhere would be arriving in the Philippines. They would book hotels, eat in restaurants, visit museums and recreation centers and go shopping and sightseeing.

Tourism receipts

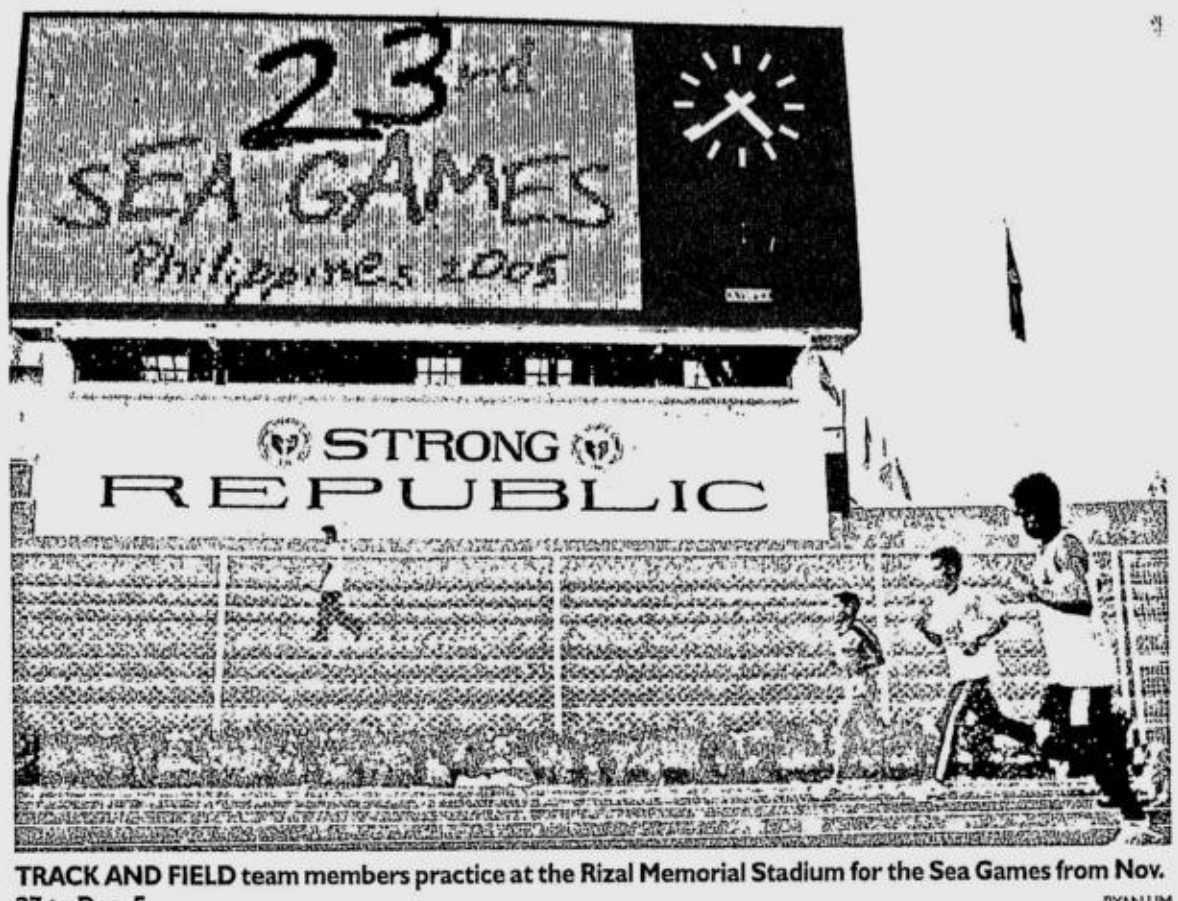
Aside from the sports delegations, the traditional arrival of expatriates (*balikbayans*) and vacationing overseas Filipino workers would also spur tourism in the last month of the year.

Barbers called the SEA Games "a big challenge to the Filipino people, most especially to political leaders from all fronts, to put our best foot forward as the entire international community will observe us during this biennial sports extravaganza."

The PTA chief said President Macapagal-Arroyo herself had set the tone in recognizing the importance of beautifying tourist areas as she ordered Metro Manila Development Authority to give the metropolis a facelift.

Hopes for 120 medals

Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Durano earlier projected receipts from the tourism industry to reach $2.5 billion this year.



TRACK AND FIELD team members practice at the Rizal Memorial Stadium for the Sea Games from Nov. 27 to Dec. 5. RYAN LIM

Philippine Olympic Committee chair Robert Aventajado said the country was angling for gold medals in boxing, equestrian, taekwondo and other martial arts, as well as in athletics.

"We are targeting some 120 gold medals this year, and we are doing our best to land on top," Aventajado told Agence France-Presse.

But football will be the main attraction after basketball was pulled from the event at the last minute due to a long-standing squabble among local officials, and defending champions Thailand are hot favorites.

Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Burma (Myanmar), the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam have sent football teams to Bacolod, where the game enjoys a huge local following.

"I believe Thailand is still the team to beat," Aventajado said, but added that the Philippines will give them a run for their money, while a strong Vietnam squad will also be up there.

The Philippine football team is considered the best the country has ever assembled, buoyed by six Filipino-foreigners including brothers Philip James and James Joseph Younghusband who live in Britain.

Football revival

The brothers are considered the great hope of reviving football in the Philippines, which is currently ranked a lowly 189th in the world next to tiny Bhutan.

Both have played in reserve team matches for English club Chelsea, and the Philippines is banking on this experience to give it an edge.

"We have a great team and I'm confident that everyone will deliver," 18-year-old striker Philip James told reporters in Bacolod.

Former Aston Villa and England striker Peter Withe, who used to manage Thailand and is now coaching Indonesia, also believes Thailand remains the team to beat.

SEAGames fast facts

THE 23RD SOUTHEAST Asian Games open here on Sunday. Here are some key facts about the event:

- Teams from 11 countries are competing. They are: Brunei, Cambodia, Timor, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.
- 441 gold medals are up for grabs in 41 events.
- The Games run from Nov. 27 to Dec. 5.
- An estimated 5,336 athletes will compete.
- The Southeast Asian Games were first held in Thailand in 1959 .
- They were known as the Southeast Asian Peninsula Games until 1975.
- The Games are held every two years, with the last event hosted by Vietnam .
- Thailand is host in 2007.

AFP

ROGER MARGALLO

A TOUCH OF ROYALTY. Prince Norodom Ranariddh of the Kingdom of Cambodia arrives in a morale-boosting gesture for the 23rd SEA Games and his country's athletes.

"They're the strongest team," he said.

Only a matter of time

Nevertheless, Philippine Football Federation president Johnny Romualdez warned his rivals not to underestimate the home team, in front of a home crowd.

"Philippine football has gotten stronger because of them," Romualdez said, referring to the Younghusband brothers, adding that it was only a matter of time before the country started making a mark on the football map.

Ironically, the Philippines virtually introduced football to Asia when in 1913 it organized the first regional match. It played China and won 2-1 in Manila, according to the Asean Football Federation.

But it has been in a sorry state for years and is returning to the Games after a 6-year hiatus. *With reports from Leila B. Salaverria, AFP*

Living the passion for life

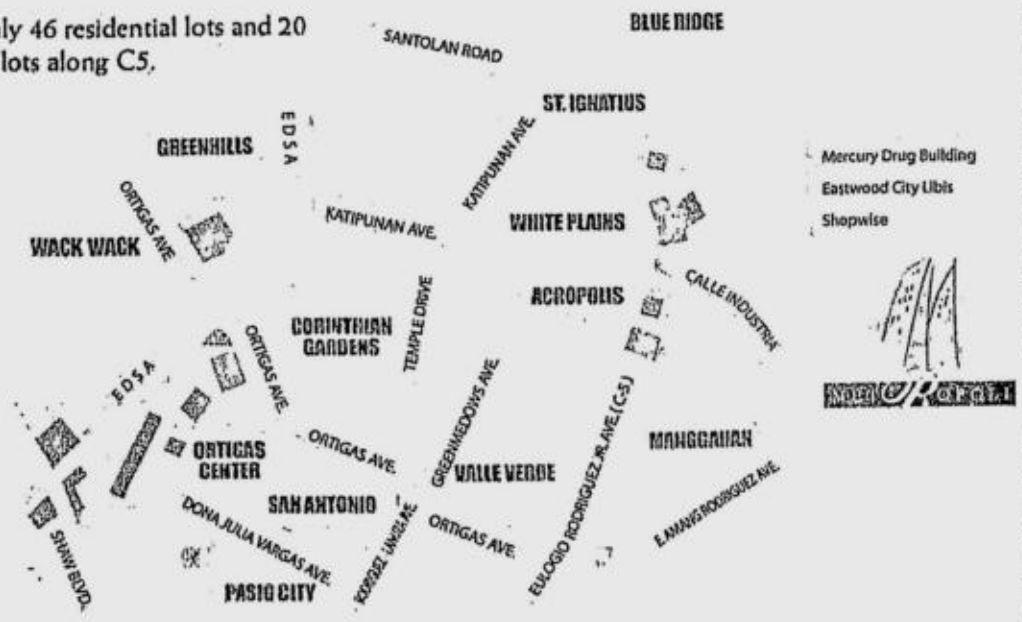
METROPOLI

Comunità Residenziale è Commerciale

LIBIS, QUEZON CITY

At the center of life. Along C5 Avenue, Libis, Quezon City. Less than 1 km to Eastwood City, 2 km to Ortigas Center, 8 km to Makati, 12 km to NAIA.

Exclusive. Only 46 residential lots and 20 commercial lots along C5.



THE ADVANTAGE OF LOCATION- minutes from your favorite shopping center, the children's school, your place of work.
An exclusive community, METROPOLI RESIDENZA is your refuge from the busy pace of city life, giving you all the amenities to meet the expectations of your distinguished lifestyle.

For details, visit us at the site or call
723-4014
726-4205
726-4317

LANDOWNER / DEVELOPER
S.T.A. LUCIA REALTY & DEVELOPMENT, INC.
DEVELOPER OF THE YEAR 2003
www.staluciarealty.com

MARKETING NETWORK
ROYALE HOMES MARKETING CORPORATION
www.royalehomes.com.ph

GMA allies rolling out red carpet for Garci

From page A1

Reyes Jr., basic education and culture.

Remulla was replaced by fellow Nacionalista Party Rep. Emmylou "Lala" Taliño-Santos (North Cotabato), Ocampo by Sulu Rep. Hussin Amin, Rosales by Rep. Bienvenido Abante (Manila), and Reyes by Jose Carlos Lacson (Negros Occidental).

GARCILLANO

"The timing is really awful," said Parañaque Rep. Roilo Golez. "This might be construed as a reaction to the reported imminent emergence of Mr. Garcillano."

"We all know about the disputes on the direction of the committee report ... While we know that this is a matter for members to decide, we know how crucial the role of the chairman is, especially the lead chairman," Golez said, referring to Remulla.

"So many things are coming up. The reorganization of the committees, all of these, would be a confluence of events that might affect adversely the image of this body," he added.

Waiting

"Let the chips fall where they may. We have all waited for Garcillano's return to provide important details that could put a closure to the tapes controversy," said Rep. Mauricio Domogan of Baguio City.

"Lawmakers are discerning enough to know if Garcillano's testimony is scripted or not, so let us allow him to say his piece," Domogan said.

Garcillano, 68, disappeared following disclosures in June of the wiretaps. On July 14, he surfaced in Singapore, according to the Singapore foreign ministry. From there, he reportedly flew to either the United Kingdom, the United States or Latin America.

Lawmakers said Garcillano had returned to the country as early as last Friday to clear his name in the wiretapping scandal that triggered the worst crisis in the 4-year-old Arroyo presidency. Ms Arroyo has denied any wrongdoing and escaped an impeachment attempt in September.

Rep. Prospero Pichay Jr. of Surigao del Sur, a close Garcillano ally, told the INQUIRER on Wednesday that Garcillano had called him from somewhere in Mindanao and that he was preparing for his first public appearance early next week.

The best Christmas gift

But presidential political adviser Gabriel Claudio said the closure of the case "should be the best gift that people can hope to have this Christmas."

"The opposition can go ahead and try to drown this nation with intrigue but the people, we believe, are already tired of this silly game and are firmly focused instead on the economic track," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said.

Bunye said that Garcillano had yet to tell all but the opposition had already "mapped out their scenario."

"This only shows that the President's critics are, after all, not interested in ferreting out the truth but only in convicting the President without proof," he said.

Outrage

Anakpawis Rep. Crispin Beltran expressed outrage over the replacement of Remulla, saying that Remulla was an "able and efficient chairman and the investigations under his facilitation were credible despite a few setbacks."

Rep. Antonio Cuenco of Cebu appealed to his colleagues to "refrain from using Garcillano's impending reappearance "for their grandstanding just to grab headlines and discredit him."

Cuenco noted that Garcillano's wife Grace had said that her husband was willing to tell all. He said this "loose talk" that Malacañang was behind Garcillano's return was all "disinformation."

"Garcillano is reportedly raring to come forward. We should get the full account from him and clarify things which have been the subject of the worst speculations and accusations," Cuenco said.

Muntinlupa Rep. Rufino Biazon also asked why Remulla was being replaced when he had shown "admirable competence" as lead chair of the "Hello Garci" investigation.

"Yes, we do acknowledge that," Nograles replied. "The leadership will find a suitable place for Congressman Remulla in the near future."

Nograles dismissed as "absurd and baseless" insinuations that Remulla's removal was timed with Garcillano's comeback.

"The stripping of Rep. Remulla's chairmanship as well as the three other solons was long overdue. This is in accordance with the standing consensus of the majority to effect a reorganization in the House after the impeachment," he said.

Administration Rep. Douglas Cagas (Davao del Sur) noted that the impending House revamp was reported by the media even before Garcillano's reported return.

Coincidence

"It was just a coincidence that the House reorganization took place just after Garcillano's arrival. But we actually expected the reorganization to take place anytime after the impeachment," he said.

During the debates on Wednesday night, Agusan del Norte Rep. Ma. Angelica Rosedell Amante rose to defend Taliño-Santos, saying she should not be prejudged.

Contacted minutes after his removal, Remulla also threw his backing behind Taliño-Santos. "She's OK. She's a fellow NP member and is much better for me than the one who was originally supposed to replace me," Remulla said.

Also yesterday, Garcillano's lawyer, Eddie Tamondong, said Garcillano had started taking legal steps to contest before the Supreme Court the arrest warrant issued on Aug. 3 by the House after he failed to appear during its hearings.

Garci signed petition

Garcillano signed the petition asking the high tribunal to issue a temporary restraining order on the House move to arrest him.

"I filed the petition in his behalf not only as counsel but as a friend," Tamondong said, adding that he personally met with Garcillano somewhere in Mindanao last week and that the latter even helped in the preparation of the pleading.

Tamondong claimed, however, that he did not know the current whereabouts of Garcillano.

"He is with his wife and they are always on the move in order to protect themselves," the lawyer said, noting that the P1 million reward the House put on Garcillano had placed him in harm's way. *With reports from Christine O. Avendaño, Armand N. Nocum and Grace C. Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Military: Still no action on Doble's case

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

FORMER ELECTION COMMISsioner Virgilio Garcillano has resurfaced, but the military still has to resolve allegations that one of its intelligence agents was the source of the "Hello Garci" tapes.

To date, T/Sgt. Vidal Doble, an operative of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp), has not been made to face any military sanction for his role in making public the alleged wiretapped phone conversations *(See related story on Page A1)*.

Gen. Generoso Senga, AFP chief of staff, said he did not know the progress of the investigation of Doble.

"That's just an administrative case. I don't know yet. I don't know the results," Senga said in a chance interview with reporters in Camp Aguinaldo.

He maintained that Doble's case was mainly handled by the Philippine National Police, which was pursuing Doble's claim he was kidnapped by Samuel Ong, ex-National Bureau of Investigation deputy chief, and was forced to say he was the source of the "Hello Garci" tapes.

FR. JOE DIZON (second from right) leads the White Ribbon Movement which is preparing for the imminent emergence of former Comelec Commissioner Garcillano reportedly next week. Aside from Father Joe, from left are Amado Gatinciong, Fr. Rudy Abao, Joy Barrios and Fr. Charles Ricafort. JOAN BONDOC

Ong also disappeared after announcing he had the "mother of all tapes."

In a separate interview, AFP spokesperson Col. Tristan Kison said the investigation of Doble was most likely left up to Isafp.

He said there was no other ongoing investigation being conducted by the AFP Inspector General or the AFP Provost Marshal, the agencies that normally handle cases against erring military personnel.

"It's an Isafp investigation," Kison said. But he could not say how the investigation was progressing.

Ong had claimed the master tape of the wiretaps had come from Doble, who received P2 million in exchange.

But after Doble was taken back into Isafp's custody, he denied any involvement and accused Ong of kidnapping him and forcing him to make up a story about the so-called "Hello Garci" tapes.

Doble's girlfriend, Marietta Santos, however, told reporters that the Isafp agent willingly went with Ong to seek refuge at San Carlos Seminary.

From the start, the AFP had been reluctant to charge Doble with any wrongdoing as it maintained that Isafp had no wiretapping capability.

On Oct. 5, Senga even defended Doble when he was asked why he was quick to punish two Marine officials who testified in a Senate probe of the Hello Garci scandal when he was not as quick to act on others implicated in the controversy.

"Nothing has been proven against Doble," Senga had told reporters.

For fifth time, oil firms cut fuel ...

From page A1

diesel by P2.60 to P2.80 a liter as a result of softening international crude oil prices, according to oil refiners Petron and Pilipinas Shell Petroleum.

But the Department of Energy (DOE) said the cumulative decreases in pump prices averaged P2.41 a liter for unleaded gasoline and P2.16 a liter for diesel and kerosene.

Flying V was first

The reductions more than offset the increases in fuel prices caused by the implementation of the 10-percent expanded value-added tax on Nov. 1. The VAT now covers petroleum products and electricity.

Flying V was the first to implement the price reduction at midnight the other night, followed by Total Philippines and Eastern Petroleum at noon yesterday.

Other firms—Petron, Pilipinas Shell Petroleum, Caltex Philippines Inc., Unioil and Seaoil—did so at different hours in the morning.

"This is our fifth (price decrease) for the month, totaling P2.85 a liter for all our gasoline products and P2.60 a liter for diesel," said Virginia Ruivivar, public affairs manager of Petron.

Pilipinas Shell spokesperson Roberto Kanapi said the company had lowered its prices by a total of P3.05 a liter for gasoline products and P2.80 a liter for diesel.

"Crude prices have gone down by $2 a barrel in the past three weeks," Kanapi said.

DOE data show that the bellwether Dubai prices have gone down $2.27 a barrel to $51.69 since Nov. 1.

In the same period, Mean of Platts Singapore prices of unleaded gasoline went down $7.26 a barrel to $61.84 from $69.10.

For diesel, the price decreased by $10.32 a barrel from $76.08 to $65.76. MOPS prices are the benchmark for refined oil products.

Now favors VAT

The continued decline in oil prices has prompted consumer advocate Raul T. Concepcion to change his mind about the VAT.

Concepcion, who chairs Consumer and Oil Price Watch, said he was now in favor of VAT on oil products.

"The pump price of the socially sensitive product diesel (as of Tuesday) was at P31.60 a liter or lower by P1.35 after the VAT," he said.

"These prices were observed since Congress removed the excise tax of P1.63 and after the tariff on fuel products was reduced (by 2 percentage points) to 3 percent or 57 centavos a liter," he said.

Lawmakers carve Samar Nature Park ...

From page A1

Haribon Foundation.

Bauxite ore is the main source of aluminum, a light but strong metal commonly used to make pots, pans, vehicle parts, road signs and high-voltage power lines.

Samar, the third largest island in the archipelago, has the only known bauxite deposits in the Philippines, with an estimated value of $21 billion.

President Macapagal-Arroyo proclaimed 333,000 ha of Samar as a nature park in August 2003. Presidential Proclamation No. 442 created the SINP, which was governed by the provisions of the National Integrated Protected Areas System (Nipas) Act.

Banaag said his committee passed House Bill No. 4764 in September, declaring around 300,000 ha of the island as a nature park and designating 25,000 ha from the original SINP area as bauxite mining area.

The legislation of a protected area by Congress will ensure stronger legal and administrative support for its protection and the appropriation of funds from the national government for its management.

HB 4764 is now with the House committee on appropriations and may be tackled in the plenary before Congress takes its recess next month, Banaag said.

Unaware of logging area

He said the committee did not excise from the SINP the 95,770-ha area that had been opened up to logging by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

He said it was not aware that the DENR had approved logging operations in the SINP. Under the Nipas Act, logging and other invasive activities that could interfere with conservation efforts should not be allowed in protected areas.

"I think it will be a problem because it's a supervening issue ... The assumption of the committee was that there was no more logging area for San Jose Timber Corp.," Banaag said.

Environment Secretary Michael T. Defensor signed on Aug. 16 an order allowing SJTC, a firm owned by Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, to cut trees in almost a third of the nature park.

The order also extended the company's timber license agreement by another 16 years.

"We will have to look into this, especially on the angle of extension ... We will stand by the bill that we have approved," Banaag said.

Reduction

He said the 25,000-ha area set aside for mining exploration in the SINP could still be reduced to as small as 5,000 ha, depending on the assessment of the area's mineral reserve.

Banaag said the committee had planned to consult with stakeholders on which part of the park would be best opened up to mining exploration.

The late strongman Ferdinand Marcos declared 220,000 ha of Samar Island as Bauxite Mineral Reserve through Presidential Proclamation No. 1615 issued in February 1977.

About 119,200 ha of this reserve overlaps with the SINP, according to the Samar Island Biodiversity Project (SIBP) profile.

Early concern

"That was already a concern during the conceptualization of the SIBP because the area is a mineral reserve," Niva Gonzales, a former DENR project officer of SIBP, said in a phone interview yesterday.

"How do you ensure that mining will have no repercussions?" she asked.

Gonzales said the impact of future mining explorations would depend on where the 25,000 ha excised by Congress would fall. If it is within the multiple use zone of the SINP or the 125,400-ha buffer zone, it would not have a significantly adverse effect, she said.

Economic potential

Defensor has urged groups opposed to logging and mining in Samar to consider the activities' potential economic contribution to the island.

Samar remains one of the poorest areas in the Philippines because it does not recognize that logging and mining could be sustainable, he said.

Local environmentalists, the Church and civil society groups have questioned the DENR decision without first consulting the people who would be affected.

SJTC statement

SJTC has assured the people of Samar that the company will pursue "responsible and sustainable" logging, but it has made it clear that it "will not as a matter of principle compromise its legal rights simply on the basis of a concerted media campaign and refuses to politicize the circumstances surrounding its operation."

In a statement dated Nov. 18, the company, through its legal counsel, Napoleon J. Poblador, said it was willing to discuss in a proper forum the environmental and economic issues with "those living within the sphere" of the logging operations.

Poblador said the statement was issued "in the light of opposition aired by various environmental and civil society groups in Samar against the resumption of logging operations in the province by SJTC after the lapse of 16 years when its logging permit was suspended through a moratorium."

He described as "unfounded" speculations that "political maneuverings" were behind the recent lifting of the logging moratorium in Samar.

Poblador said it was not SJTC's principals, but the company itself that had been working for the lifting of the moratorium.

"A sustainable timber harvesting operation will provide for the people of Samar things that an idle timber land never will—gainful employment for the people of Samar, better food on the table, and better standards of living for its citizenry," he said.

With a report from Vicente S. Labro, PDI Visayas Bureau

GMA removes Palace press corps from Kalayaan Hall

From page A1

dent Macapagal-Arroyo is planning to evict journalists from their 19-year-old press office at the Kalayaan building and move them to the New Executive Building on the outer fringes of the Palace compound.

It was less than two weeks ago that she lectured the media on the wisdom of shedding its supposed "bad boy" image and the merits of covering, not "losers," but "winners."

Ms Arroyo disclosed her plan for the Malacañang Press Corps to Ely Saludar, a former president of the group, during a lunch meeting with reporters and officers of RMN radio at the Palace on Wednesday.

According to the plan, Saludar said, the press corps would be given the first two floors of the New Executive Building (famously known as the "Borloloy" building), and Malacañang's propagandists, the top floors.

'Good plan'

"I think it's a good plan because the reporters will be closer to their main sources of information," Saludar said.

He was referring to the fact that the New Executive Building is adjacent to the Malacañang Guest House, where Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita holds office.

For the last five months—or since the start of the biggest political crisis to rock the Arroyo administration—Ermita has served as Malacañang's main source of news.

His weekly press conference has been making up for the President's obvious distaste for the traditional forum.

Ms Arroyo apparently now prefers one-on-one interviews with radio and television anchors, which she has done of late.

The last time she agreed to face the media in a press conference, foreign journalists were shut out and the locals were required to submit their questions a day earlier for careful screening.

Vantage point

The press office, which has been at the Kalayaan building since the administration of President Corazon Aquino, provides an ideal vantage point for reporters.

From there, they can monitor not only the President's movements but also the traffic of Cabinet and military officials, lawmakers and local government executives, as well as guests going to or coming from the First Family's private apartments.

It was only last week that Ms Arroyo was infuriated by the unkempt garden and moss-covered statues at Kalayaan. The lack of toilet paper in a restroom there upset her even more.

Ms Arroyo's immediate predecessors in Malacañang did not exhibit the same aversion to press conferences and ambush interviews.

During his term, President Fidel V. Ramos made it a point to meet with the media at least once a week to explain his policies and comment on the burning issues of the day.

And before he was deposed, President Joseph Estrada allowed not only ambush interviews but also liberal access to the Palace by the media.

SUERTRES 8 6 7

SIX DIGIT (In exact order) 3 0 1 6 7 5

EZ2 12 8 (In exact order)

METRO

E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Ester G. Dipasupil

SUPERLOTTO 6/49 2 3 18 29 39 47

₱8,000,000.00

Text us your inquirer met name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Suspected meningo case sends Pasay into panic

WEARING masks, parents fetch their children from the Padre Burgos Elementary School in Pasay City as classes were suspended yesterday following the death of a woman from suspected meningococcemia at the city general hospital Wednesday night. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

By Jocelyn R. Uy

PANIC GRIPPED PASAY RESIDENTS WHEN A 35-year-old woman suspected to have contracted the deadly meningococcemia virus died at the city hospital at around 10:30 p.m. Wednesday.

The patient, identified as Marjorie Florano, died at the Pasay City General Hospital's (PCGH) emergency room after being brought in by a friend on Nov. 22, said Dr. Leto Mangonon, hospital director. She was immediately buried at the city's public cemetery.

Before her death, Florano, a resident of Parañaque City, was running a fever for four days. When she was finally brought to the hospital, she was vomiting and had low blood pressure. During examination, she also showed other symptoms of meningococcemia, becoming delirious and developing rashes.

Upon hearing of her death, hospital staff and patients started wearing surgical masks while officials of nearby schools sent students home. The PCGH also closed its emergency room briefly to fumigate the area while staff members who had direct contact with the patient were given antibiotics.

A blood culture and sensitivity test was performed on the victim's blood sample yesterday at the San Juan De Dios Hospital. "The initial results of the investigation said the patient was negative for meningo," Mangonon said.

However, the hospital staff could not heave a sigh of relief just yet until the final results are released later today.

Meningococcemia is a disease caused by the presence of bacteria called meningococcus in the bloodstream. Persistent fever, chills, weakness and even depression are the early symptoms of the disease that usually preys on children and young adults.

An outbreak of the disease in Baguio City last year claimed 18 lives. This year, two deaths were recorded in Baguio, four in the Mountain Province and three in Benguet.

"Meningococcemia isn't an airborne disease. Transmission from the victim to another person isn't that fast except when there is close contact with the victim," Mangonon said.

Following the incident, Mayor Wenceslao "Peewee" Trinidad sent teams from the city health office to schools near the hospital to brief students on the disease and inform them where to report suspicious cases of meningo.

Claudine, editor near settlement

By DJ Yap

ACTRESS CLAUDINE BARRETO AND MAGAzine editor Jo-Ann Maglipon, who are locked in a standoff over privacy and press freedom issues, came a step closer to a settlement yesterday on the first day of mediation.

Raymund Fortun, Barreto's lawyer, offered to withdraw the civil suit against Maglipon and forgo any claims for damages on one condition: she must agree not to publish photos or articles of the actress without her written consent for a certain period.

Maglipon's lawyer Sandra Coronel, on the other hand, requested that Fortun write down the condition's parameters and submit it to them within five days so they could make a counterproposal.

BARRETO

The lawyers made the offer and counteroffer before mediation officer Lourdes Lim at the Quezon City Hall of Justice.

Fortun initially asked that Maglipon "voluntarily desist" from approaching Barreto but later said his client was willing to forgo that if the journalist would agree to exercise "responsible journalism."

Coronel countered that Maglipon had always exercised responsible journalism and that any prohibition imposed on her would be a violation of press freedom.

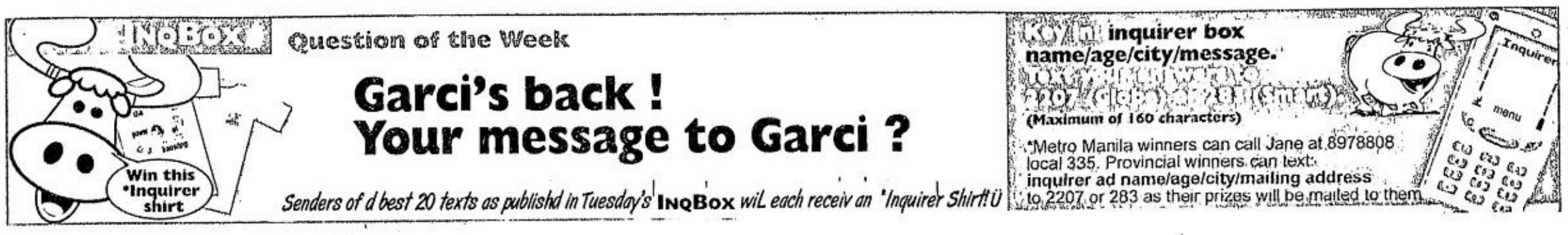
Speaking to reporters afterwards, both lawyers were optimistic that their clients would arrive at an amicable settlement soon.

In July, Barreto asked a Quezon City court to "forever restrain" Maglipon from coming within 250 meters of her, accusing the journalist of irresponsible journalism for allegedly publishing photos and stories that put her in a bad light.

She also sought P8 million in moral and exemplary damages.

Maglipon, editor in chief of Yes Magazine and executive editor of Hi! Magazine, countered by filing seven counts of libel against Barreto for allegedly besmirching her reputation in interviews with the media

Her daughter, Pat Marcelo, also filed a libel suit against the actress for reportedly dragging her name into the controversy.



Charges junked vs suspected bombers

By Tina G. Santos

A JUDGE HAS DISMISSED CHARGES against two men accused of plotting to bomb the Black Nazarene procession in Quiapo last January for lack of probable cause.

The dismissal of the charges of illegal possession of firearms and explosives against Afgani Alonto, 44, and Leonardo Ricalde, 36, was contained in a Nov. 14 order issued by Judge Noli Diaz of the Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 39.

Alonto and Ricalde had asked the court to dismiss the case after it granted their earlier motion to void the search warrant used by policemen in raiding the Islamic Information Center in Malate, Manila, where they were arrested. "Now I feel relieved and vindicated. But our rights have been violated. I don't know how this could be rectified and how we can be given justice," Alonto said in a phone interview.

Sixteen suspected Islamic militants were arrested by police during the raid on the Islamic center at the third floor of the Agoncillo Building in Malate. Of the 16, only Alonto and Ricalde were charged in the Manila prosecutor's office. The others were freed for lack of evidence against them.

The raid took place on Jan. 7, two days before the Black Nazarene procession, an annual event that attracts hundreds of thousands of male Catholic devotees. Police claimed they recovered several improvised explosives and high-powered firearms during the raid.

Alonto, who worked as the center's manager, said he does not plan to file countercharges against those involved in the operation.

"I don't have any money left to spend on litigation," he said. "I lost my job, my friends and some relatives because of false accusations hurled against us. Besides, it would be difficult to take on the fight considering what I am up against," he said.

But despite his bad experience, Alonto said he remains optimistic that he would be able to start all over again.

"It will be hard but I know we will make it," he said.

TV host bats for stricter laws to protect battered women

By DJ Yap

DESPITE HER PUBLIC IMAGE AS A COOL and cheery fitness expert, Plinky Recto admitted yesterday that her private life was a "nightmare," a day after she charged her former partner with domestic abuse.

RECTO

"I am a victim of violence," she said simply, reading from a prepared statement where she recounted her experience with her former partner, whom she did not name.

Surrounded by supporters from the militant women's group Gabriela, Recto spoke at a press conference in Quezon City yesterday, and urged abused women to stand up for their rights, day before the marking of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

A known TV personality and fitness expert, Recto alleged she endured domestic violence inflicted by her former lover. "When he was mad at the world, he took it out on me," she claimed. At one point, her former partner allegedly kicked her in the neck, causing her pain from an injury that doctors said was permanent, she added.

Recto said she had sought and won a temporary protection order from a local court against the man, but her petition for a permanent protection order was still being heard. She had also filed a criminal complaint in the National Bureau of Investigation, which had endorsed it to the Department of Justice for preliminary investigation. "I sincerely fear for my life, the lives of my family and my friends, Recto said, adding the "harassment" had not abated, without elaborating.

Jalosjos' birthday fête in jail 'austere'

By Jocelyn R. Uy

FORMER ZAMboanga del Norte Rep. Romeo Jalosjos celebrated his 65th birthday yesterday at the New Bilibid Prisons in what an insider described as a "low-key" affair.

JALOSJOS

With an all-male à cappella group singing songs from the '70s and '80s in the background, Jalosjos' guests sat down at eight tables draped with blue and white cloth and chose what they wanted to eat from four menus.

Simple fare

The food, provided by a caterer, included grilled fish, pancit, bibingka and native food brought by his 82-year-old mother.

The fare, according to a guest who did not want to be identified, was rather austere compared to Jalosjos' previous birthday celebrations where he served several calves, pigs and goats.

Apart from his mother, the former solon's other guests included his two children, several aunts, a handful of relatives from Zamboanga and some inmates, added the guest. "He didn't send out invitations, so he was not really expecting anyone to come."

Early birds

But another source said some government officials had dropped by early in the morning to greet the celebrant on what could be his last birthday behind bars. Jalosjos had earlier expressed optimism that he would be released by next month from the Muntinlupa City prison facility after his mother appealed to President Macapagal-Arroyo for his release on humanitarian grounds.

Jalosjos is serving two life terms for raping an 11-year-old girl.

Since being imprisoned, the former solon has been generous to other inmates, even spending P6 million for the construction of a basketball court and furnishing it with a P4 million audio system.

"My mission here is done. I have to continue these things outside," the source quoted him as saying.

Task force plea to hold shootout probe denied

By Luige A. del Puerto

THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS SERVICE (IAS) OF the Philippine National Police which is investigating the Pasig City shootout incident involving suspected carjackers yesterday threw out a request from the lawyer of 10 Traffic Management Group (TMG) agents that it suspend its inquiry.

Hector Corpus, who represents the officers of the TMG's operating unit, Task Force Limbas, said the IAS should stop its inquiry until other bodies probing the incident, such as the Commission on Human Rights, are done with their investigation.

"The panel will not suspend its hearing, unless restrained by a competent court," panel chair Sr. Supt. Joselito Casugbo said. Tension rose as Corpus argued with panel members who told him to put his motion in writing and submit it on Nov. 29.

The IAS is investigating the Nov. 7 incident at the Ortigas Center where 10 TMG agents killed three carjacking suspects in an alleged shootout.

A video aired after the incident showed the agents firing at the suspects who were slumped inside a car, leading to calls for a probe.

In yesterday's hearing, Corpus also asked that Casugbo inhibit himself from the panel because he had talked to the media. Corpus wanted to bar the press from covering the proceedings, particularly when intelligence officers were called to testify. The panel later banned cameras and recorders, but allowed reporters to take notes.

METROBRIEFS

Suspected killer acquitted

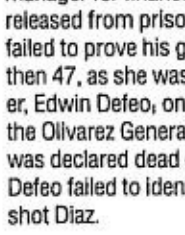
A MAN accused of murdering a ranking official of the Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) was acquitted yesterday by Parañaque City Regional Trial Court Branch 258 Judge Raul de Leon. Zaldi Dagting, charged with killing Lilia Diaz, MIAA assistant general manager for finance and administration, was ordered released from prison yesterday after prosecutors failed to prove his guilt. A lone shot was fired at Diaz, then 47, as she was being driven to work by her driver, Edwin Defeo, on Sept. 9, 2003. She was rushed to the Olivarez General Hospital in Parañaque where she was declared dead on arrival. The judge ruled that Defeo failed to identify the accused as the one who shot Diaz. *Jocelyn R. Uy*

Crackdown on cable chatrooms

THE NATIONAL Telecommunications Commission (NTC) is cracking down on cable chat rooms that have turned into sex channels. In a circular issued yesterday, the NTC ordered cable television operators with chat room channels to use an Automated Filter Dictionary (AFD) which will edit text content. It noted that some chat rooms were not regulating the use of profane language or explicit messages while some openly solicit sex. NTC chair Ronald Solis said cable operators that fail to comply with the guidelines would be meted out penalties, including the revocation of their licenses and permits. *Jocelyn R. Uy*

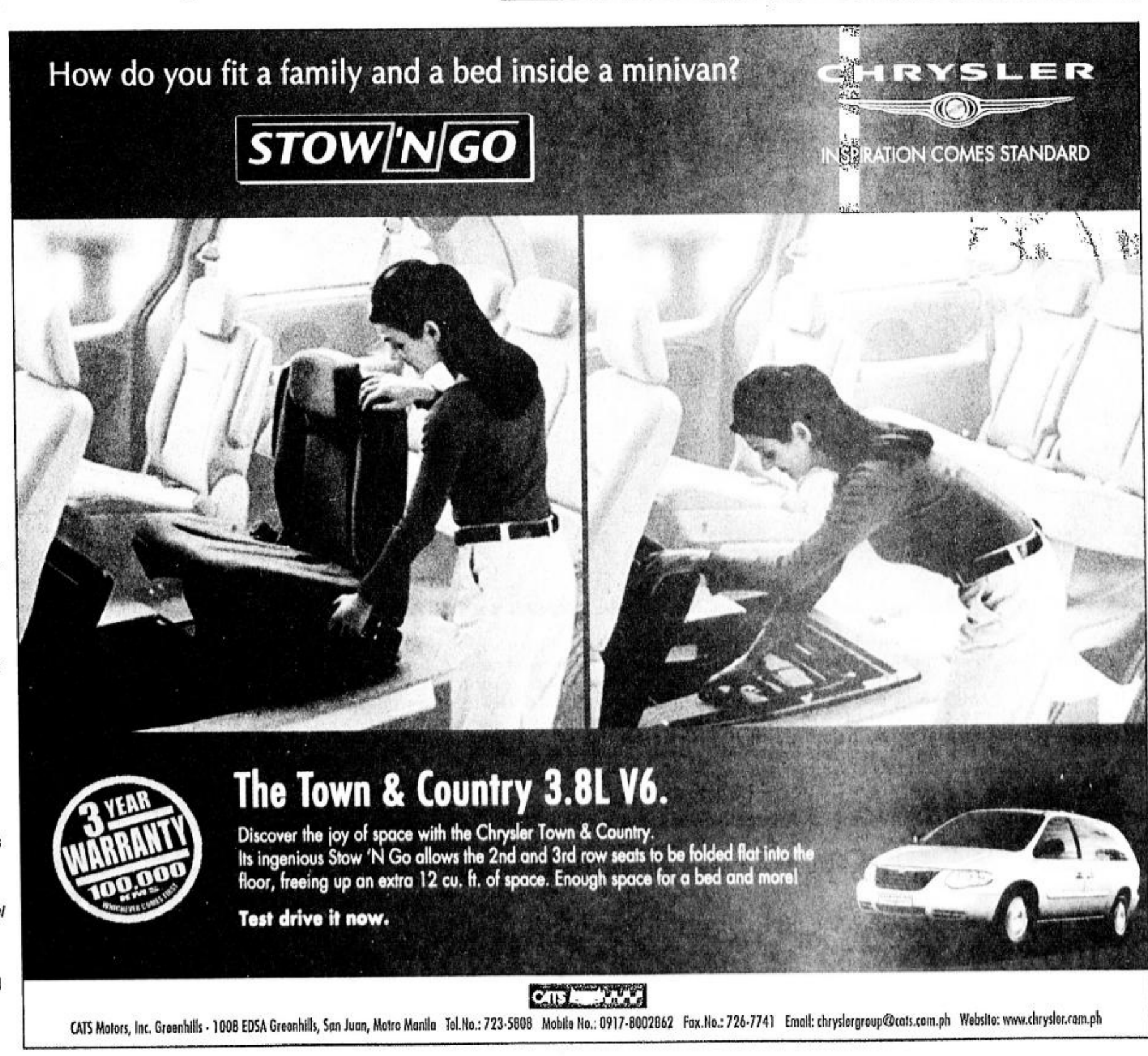
Brothers face raps for shooting boy

CHARGES of child abuse and illegal possession of firearms are being readied by the police against brothers who accidentally shot and wounded a four-year-old boy in Navotas yesterday. The suspects were identified as Arnold, Rodelio and Romeo Tragora, residents of Block 33 Lot 28, Phase 2, Barangay NBBS. The police said the three were fighting with other men when one of them fired a gun and hit the victim in the back. The boy was the suspects' neighbor. The Tragoras brought him to the hospital where he has been declared out of danger. Two of the suspects also sought treatment for stab wounds and were later arrested by the police. *Nancy C. Carvajal*



Low back pain

A LAY Forum on Low Back Pain will be held on Saturday, Nov. 26, at 1 p.m. at the Makati Medical Center. The forum is sponsored by the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation of MMC. Participants may call 8159641.



Get Ready to be

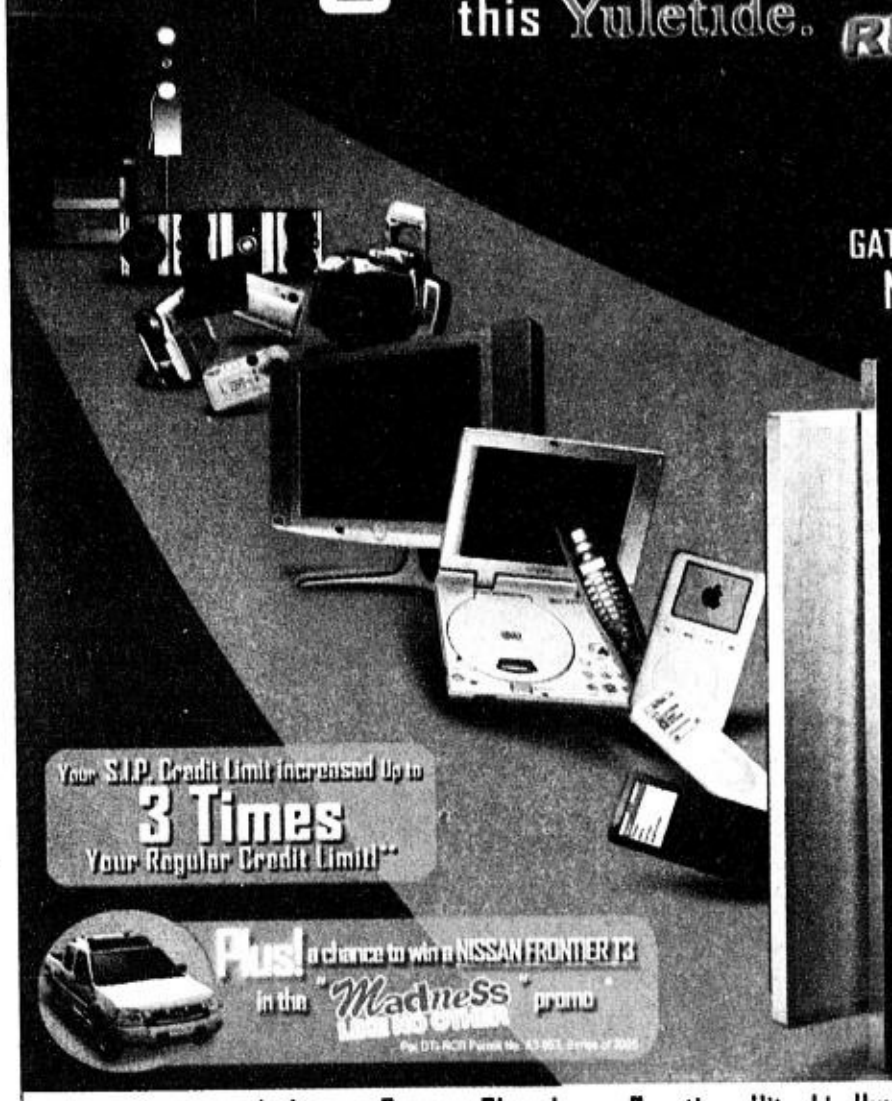
Gadgetized

this Yuletide.

REAL 0%* interest

GATEWAY MALL ACTIVITY CENTER, ARANETA CENTER 3

November 25 to December 11, 2005



Your S.I.P. Credit Limit increased Up to 3 Times Your Regular Credit Limit**

Plus! a chance to win a NISSAN FRONTIER T3 in the "Madness" promo*

presented by BPI EXPRESS CREDIT and Automatic CENTRE

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A3-978, Series of 2005

Participating Brands: Audiovox . Canon . Chenghong . Creative . Hitachi . Hyundai iPod . JVC . Kodak . Kolin/Syntax . LG . Magic Sing . Nextbase . Olympus Panasonic . Pentax . Pioneer . Philips . Sharp . Toshiba . Vivitar

BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS
A tradition of leadership

*On selected items and selected terms
** Your maximum purchasing power will depend on the number of years you have been a BPI cardholder. To know your promotional SIP limit call ExpressPhone 88-100.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER PLATINUM CODE

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER • PLATINUM ANNIVERSARY • 1985 20

Find the answer to the question in the highlighted letters above. Highlighted letters may be used more than once. Text in your answer to 29768* for SMART, Globe, and Sun Cellular subscribers and get a chance to win in the weekly or grand draws!

*To join, initially send PDI<space>20<space>answer<space>name/address/age/gender to 29768. Ex.: PDI 20 ANSWER Jonah Imperial/#1 Paco St., Makati/22/F. For succeeding answers, the registered subscriber simply sends PDI<space>20<space>answer to 29768. Each entry cost is P2.50. Each participant is allowed a maximum of 3 entries per day.

Prizes at stake:
Weekly Prize: One (1) Winner – P 20,000 in Cash
Grand Prize: One (1) Winner – P 200,000 in Cash
Note: The 20% tax on prizes exceeding P10,000 will be shouldered by the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

See print ads and flyers for complete details.

INQUIRER

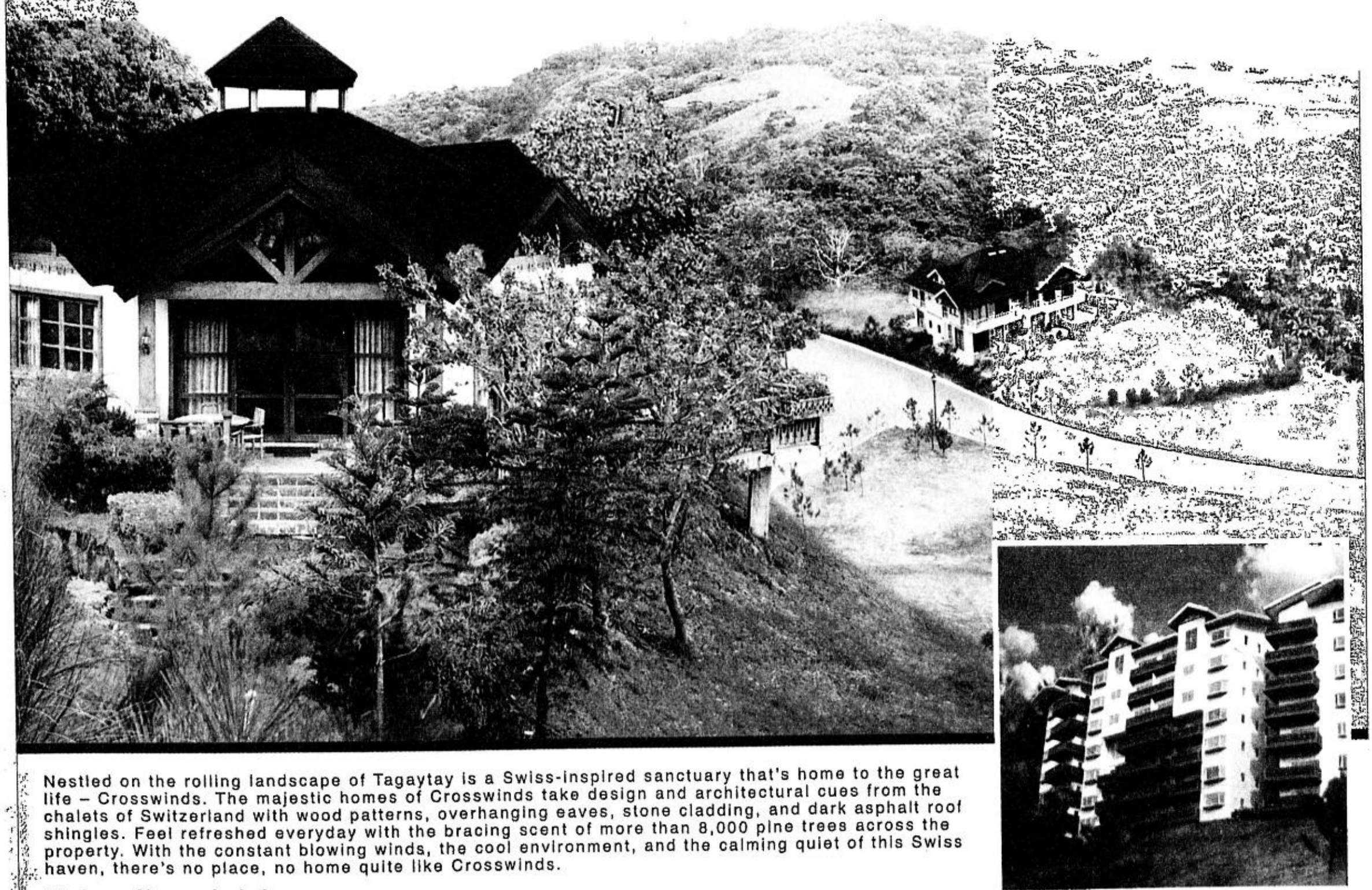
Promo runs from July 17 to December 3, 2005
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4227 Series of 2005

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Where You Find The Best. JOB Market

YOUR CONNECTION TO +BETTER PEOPLE, BETTER JOBS

Nestled In Scenic Tagaytay: A Swiss Sanctuary



Nestled on the rolling landscape of Tagaytay is a Swiss-inspired sanctuary that's home to the great life – Crosswinds. The majestic homes of Crosswinds take design and architectural cues from the chalets of Switzerland with wood patterns, overhanging eaves, stone cladding, and dark asphalt roof shingles. Feel refreshed everyday with the bracing scent of more than 8,000 pine trees across the property. With the constant blowing winds, the cool environment, and the calming quiet of this Swiss haven, there's no place, no home quite like Crosswinds.

Choices of homes include:

1. The *Swiss Quadrilles*™ Swiss chalet-like quadruplexes
2. The *Grand Quartier*™ Upscale Swiss condominiums
3. Custom Home Sites Choice lots for your own chalets

The Crosswinds *Grand Quartier*™

Get a Property Preview. Call 850 2868 • 850 6986 or click www.brittany.com.ph

CROSSWINDS
Life is great

Brittany
CORPORATION

WORLD TRADE CENTER, 10:00 AM - 8:00 PM
NOV 25-27, 2005
2005 shop expo
ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED!
Present this coupon for free entrance!

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2005

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

A25

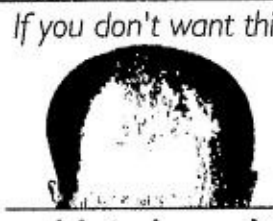
SPORTS

E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

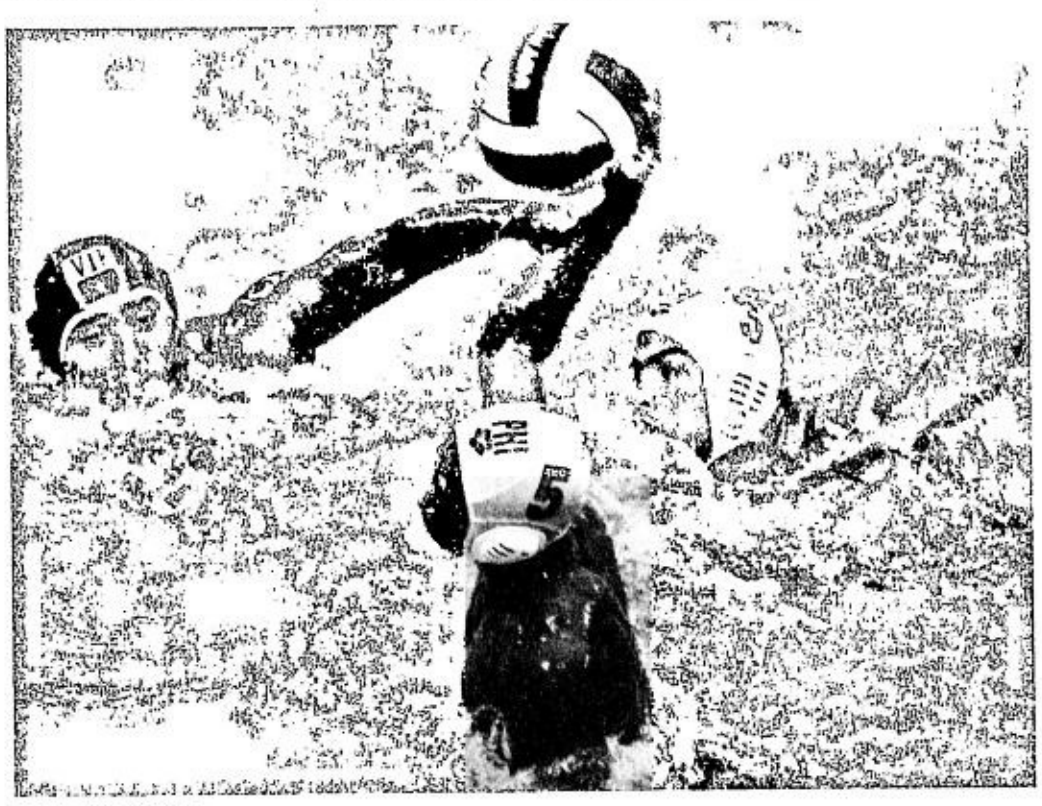
Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres

Text us your feedback: inquirer sprt name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

If you don't want this



Stop Hair Loss Now.
Call Svenson at 892-HAIR



WATER POLO
Ricardo Dilapdilap (#5) of the Philippines gets ready to score against the Vietnamese while Almax Laurel (#3) prepares to provide support at the Trace College in Los Baños, Laguna. The Philippine team won by 13-3. *Story on page 26*
EDWIN BACASMAS

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

WATER POLO
(Trace Aquatics Center, Los Baños)
4 p.m.—Thailand vs Indonesia
5:15 p.m.—Vietnam vs Singapore
6:30 p.m.—Philippines vs Malaysia

MEN'S FOOTBALL
(Panaad Stadium, Bacolod City)
4:30 p.m.—Cambodia vs Philippines

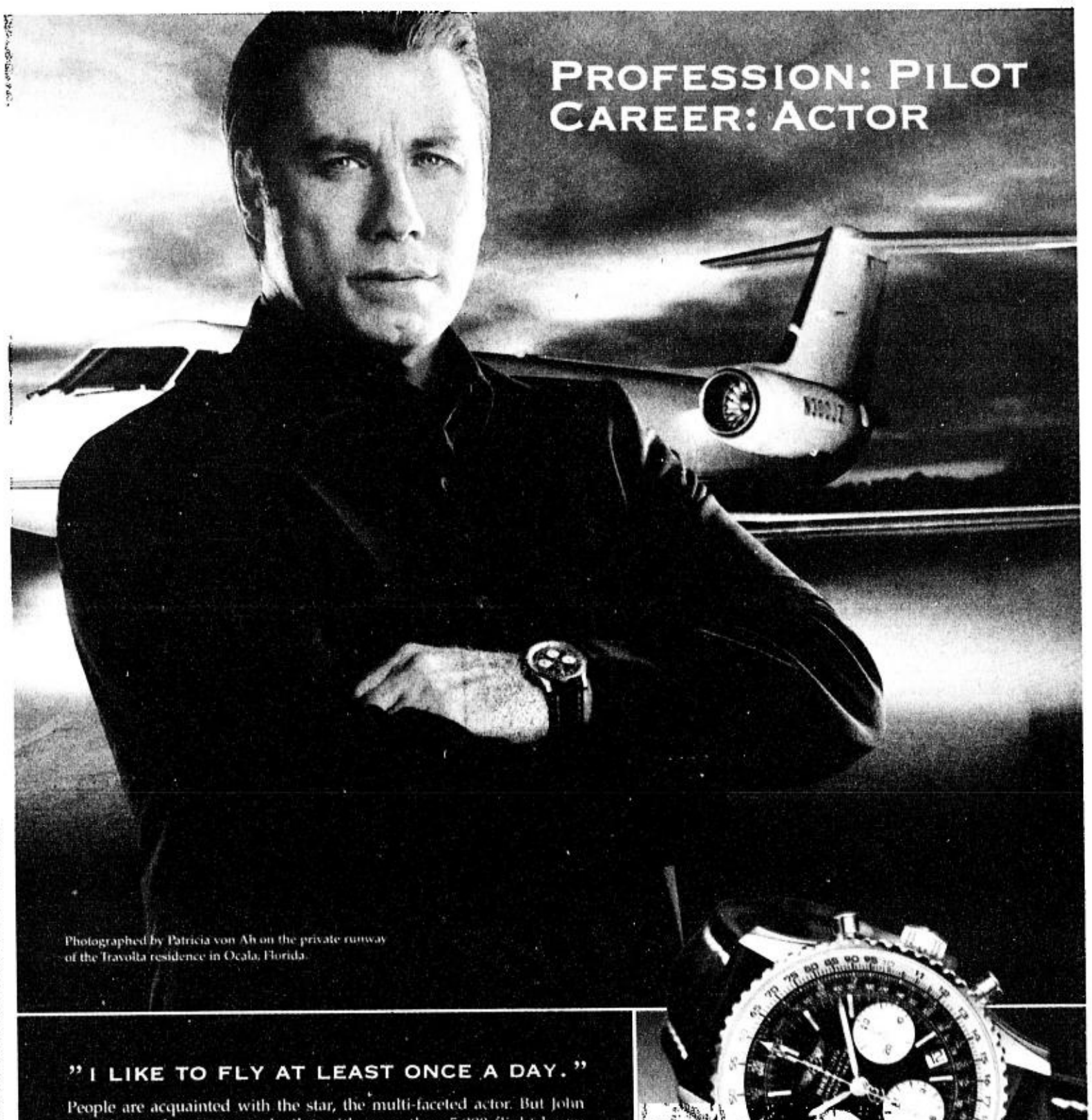
24 days to go
Basta Pinoy. Posible.
TEXT SEAG TO 2303
Globe

SEX APPEAL IS ABOUT BEING SEXY
Men are VAIN too...

LAGING HANDA
(HINDI KA MAPAPAHIYA)
Just buy 1 can of GANG XIAN herbal slimming tea for men
and get 2 FREE sachets of HONEY KOON LOVE POTION FOR MEN (instant tea)
save as much as P140.00!
Hurry! Limited offer only.
GK GANG XIAN Herbal Slimming Tea for Men
Available at Watsons and other leading drugstores & supermarkets

RP XI tries again vs Cambodia

RP XI/ A26



Photographed by Patricia von Ah on the private runway of the Travolta residence in Ocala, Florida.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Where You Find The Best. JOB Market

YOUR CONNECTION TO
+BETTER PEOPLE, BETTER JOBS

"I LIKE TO FLY AT LEAST ONCE A DAY."

People are acquainted with the star, the multi-faceted actor. But John Travolta is also a seasoned pilot with more than 5,000 flight hours under his belt, and is certified on eight different aircraft, including the Boeing 747-400 Jumbo Jet. As a young boy in New Jersey, he already used to dream of flying as he watched planes criss-crossing the sky around the New York airports. Today, John Travolta travels the world at the controls of his own airliner and nurtures a passion for everything that embodies the authentic spirit of aviation. Like BREITLING wrist instruments. Founded in 1884, BREITLING has shared all the finest hours in aeronautical history. Models such as the NAVITIMER have become cult objects for pilots the world over. Where safety is of crucial importance, BREITLING is known as the specialist in reliable and high-performance "wrist instruments" designed and tested for the most demanding professionals. BREITLING chronographs meet the highest standards of sturdiness and functionality, and are equipped with movements that are chronometer-certified by the COSC (Swiss Official Chronometer Testing Institute) – the highest reference in terms of precision and reliability. One simply does not become an aviation supplier by chance.

Breitling watches are available at
LUCERNE: Glorietta 4, Ayala Center • Shangri-La Plaza Mall • Ayala Center, Cebu City
CHRONOS: Alabang Town Center • SM Megamall • Power Plant Mall • Glorietta 3, Ayala Center

WWW.BREITLING.COM

BREITLING
1884
INSTRUMENTS FOR PROFESSIONALS"

STYLISHLY SAFE NOW BECOMES LUXURIOUSLY CONVENIENT. IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU...
Turn to Business Section's B8-B9 for details.

PETRON Fuel Success.
Laban, laban sa Petron Rev-X!
X-pert sa makina, X-tra ang kita.

RP XI tries again vs Cambodia

From page A25

BACOLOD CITY—STUNG BY A HEARTbreaking loss in its debut, the Philippine men's football team hopes to stay in the hunt for a first-ever Southeast Asian Games medal when it takes on Cambodia today at the Panaad Stadium.

Brandishing the form rarely seen in years, the RP booters put up a gallant fight against defending champion Thailand only to lose, 1-0, Wednesday, leaving them with no recourse but to win their next two matches.

Gametime is set at 4:30 p.m. with another huge crowd expected to flock at the stadium to support the Filipinos, who are heavily favored to claim victory and eventually end a 10-year win drought in the Games.

"The players are eager to win," said RP coach Aris Caslib, whose team also needs to prevail against Malaysia on Nov. 29 to have a clear chance of making it to the knockout stages. "They know that they are now playing in a higher level."

The Cambodian booters bowed to Malaysia, 0-5, in their first match but Caslib is not taking their rivals lightly.

"I'm stressing the importance of discipline in defense to them (the players)," he said. "They (Cambodians) will come out more aggressive so we just have to find ways to stop them and work hard for the win," he said.

Caslib did not say if he would still have the same starting 11 against Cambodia but hinted there would only be little adjustment on their part.

Fil-Briton brothers Phil and James Younghusband played key roles against Thailand, setting up most of RP's scoring opportunities but they would be needing more support from teammates.

Head-to-head, the Philippines had never won against Cambodia. The RP booters came close to snatching a victory in the 1998 Tiger Cup, fighting the Cambodians to a 1-all draw.

The RP booters are expected to closely mark Cambodian strikers Kouch Sokumpeach, Pouk Virak and Pak Chan Than.

Philippine Football Federation president Johnny Romualdez said "although the Nationals are tipped to win the match, the team still needs to play hard from start to finish."

He also advised football fans here to bring Philippine flags and wear blue—the Filipinos' jersey color—again today.

Cedelf Tupas, PDI Visayas Bureau

Thai girls foil debut of Filipino footbelles

THAILAND CONTINUED TO BE A THORN TO the Philippines' football bid.

A day after its men's team clipped the Philippine squad in Bacolod, the Thai women hammered out a 1-0 victory over the Filipino lady booters yesterday, shattering the hearts of a capacity crowd that cheered the home team in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games at the Marikina Sports Center.

Reserve Pitsamai Sornsai, who subbed in for Benjawan Changauttha at the 65th minute, scored the goal that proved to be the difference just 12 minutes after entering the pitch.

The win hiked the Thais' record up to 2-0, putting them in a share of the lead with Myanmar which crushed Indonesia, 5-0, in the earlier game.

Thailand also fashioned out a 1-0 victory over the Philippines Wednesday in Bacolod.

And just like the men's team, the women's squad put up a gallant fight, much to the delight of an 8,000-strong crowd that came clad in red and white—the colors of the Philippine team uniform.

The loss marked a disappointing debut for the Philippines, which managed to create a lot of scoring opportunities.

"Coming in, we were confident that we could beat the Thais," said striker Marielle Benitez. "But the ball's round."

"We're disappointed," added the RP skipper. "But we have to bounce back."

"[This is] definitely a setback that will affect us," echoed RP assistant coach Freddie Estacion.

The Philippines will play Indonesia on Saturday, followed by matches against Vietnam and Myanmar on Nov. 28 and 30, respectively. *Jose Paolo Lacdao, contributor*

Vietnam booters reach semis first

BACOLOD CITY—VIETNAM clinched the first semifinal berth in Group B with a game to spare, nipping Myanmar, 1-0, in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games men's football tournament at the Bacolod City Sports Complex.

Phan Van Tai Em's header off a Nguyen Ven Bien cross sealed the Vietnamese's third win in as many outings—good for the top spot in the so-called "Group of Death."

In the first game, Indonesia, drawing an inspired performance from goalkeeper Samsidar, refused to rattle in the face of Singapore's relentless attack in the final 10 minutes and hung on to a scoreless draw.

Capitalizing on a fagged-out Indonesian defensive line, the Singaporeans bombarded their rivals with a barrage of shots from the 80th minute until the final whistle only to see Samsidar parry them away to the delight of the lean crowd.

The stalemate left the Singapore booters (0-1-1)—one of the favorites to contend with the Thailand—with only a point to show in two matches, dimming their chances of barging into the semifinals in Group B, while the Indonesians, who were held to a scoreless draw by Myanmar in their first outing, has two points (0-2-0).

Vietnam (2-0-0) for six points was playing Myanmar (0-1-1) as of press deadline.

"It's frustrating when you dominate the final 10 minutes of the match and you don't score," Singapore's Serbian coach Radojko Avramovic, whose team's fate now rests on the hands of the results of its last two matches, said.

Despite the draw that pushed them to solo third behind Vietnam and Laos (1-0-1) in Group B, Indonesia's British coach Peter Withe said he was satisfied with his team's performance.

"I was very pleased with our game but fatigue was a very crucial factor here," Withe added.

Up next for the Indonesians is Vietnam, whom they will play on Saturday in a match that could pretty much determine their chances of making it to the semifinals. *Cedelf P. Tupas, PDI Visayas Bureau*

MARIELLE Benitez of the Philippines (center) tries to beat Thailand's-Sukunya Peangthem and Wajee Kerpsombun to the ball during their women's football match last night. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Fil-Am swimmers to create big ripple

By Marc Anthony Reyes

LOS BAÑOS—THE FIL-AMERIcan swimmers have started to arrive for the 23rd Southeast Asian Games, among them the 17-year-old sensation Erica Totten who is now "secretly training" in an undisclosed pool here.

Swimming association president Mark Joseph said that the Fil-Am holder of the national records in the 100-meter butterfly, 200m freestyle and 400m individual medley events has slipped into the country quietly with her coach Jeff Popple of Bolles School three days ago.

This is the first SEAG for Totten, a veteran NCAA competitor from the Bolles School in Florida which is noted for its swimming firepower.

Olympian Jacklyn Pangilinan is set to arrive late last night, while JB Walsh, SEAG champions Miguel Mendoza and Miguel Molina are already in the country training at the Trace Aquatics Center where the swimming competitions will be held starting on Nov. 29.

The Philippines will also bank on two more Fil-Ams Mikhail Reyes and Bobby Walsh and Olympian Timmy Chua.

Water polo bets down Viets, brace for silver

GAMES TODAY (Trace Aquatics Center)
4 p.m.—Thailand vs Indonesia
5:15 p.m.—Vietnam vs Singapore
6:30 p.m.—Philippines vs Malaysia

By Marc Anthony Reyes

LOS BAÑOS—THE PHILIPPINES kept Vietnam at bay with a solid defense then unloaded a flurry of goals in the second half to prevail, 13-3, for its third victory in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games water polo competitions last night at the Trace Aquatics Center.

The victory paved the way for a possible silver medal finish for the host country as defending champion Singapore handily defeated Thailand in the third game, 12-3, to practically retain the championship.

The Filipinos need to win against Malaysia in their last assignment today to nail the silver medal, a finish the country last achieved in 1999 in Brunei and in 1993 in Singapore. The Philippines has never won this event so far.

Malaysia, the country's closest contender for silver, suffered a 4-6 upset to erstwhile winless Indonesia in the first game. The Malaysians now hold a 2-2 record, while the Indonesians have a 1-3 record.

A win by Malaysia, though, would mean a bronze medal finish for the country under the winner-over-the-other rule.

The Philippines blew its gold medal chance after a heartbreaking 7-6 loss last Tuesday to Singapore, the region's water polo heavyweight.

However, a silver is enough to get the RP team to the Asian Games in Qatar next year.

Michael Jarolan, Sherwin dela Paz, Roy Canete and Danny dela Torre took turns in drilling goals as the Philippines posted a 4-1 lead in the first quarter.

But it was the superb defense of Allan Payawal that made life miserable for the Vietnamese, who went scoreless in the last two quarters for their second loss in four games.

To the Woodshed

By Percy D. Della

COMMENTARY

THE VOICE ON THE OTHER END of my cellphone was friendly but frantic.

"Sir, *pakitulungan mo naman kami.*"

Clarito Samson, who'd rather text than talk, was just too anxious to burn the wires this time.

What about? I asked.

Pause.

About the boss, Clarito says—the boss being Philippine Olympic Committee honcho Jose "Peping" Cojuangco.

Mr. Samson, media officer of 23rd Southeast Asian Games goes on to tag as untruth a text message going about that Peping and his crew had reportedly been taken to the woodshed.

By the Big Boss—GMA herself to have their fannies tanned and attitude adjusted.

Clarito was to forward or e-mail the message but never did—a simple but crucial housekeeping chore left undone by a public relations people in a firefighting mode.

Anyway, our colleague Recah Trinidad who joined us at Peter Lee's Restaurant later in the day was happy to share the contents of the message..

Supposedly from a Malacañang source, the text said the President was livid, "*galit na galit*" during a meeting on the SEA Games—"whipping" Cojuangco and other sports officials like unruly children, for "just credit grabbing a lot" with no results to show in preparing for the Games.

The text goes on to say that the limited funds "*katiting na nga lang*" that the government provided for the Games are going down the drain, that the President who does not have a clue about current preparations was now "*nakikialam*," but many believe it was "too late in the day, major damage has been done ("*laking* damage *na ang nagawa*...")

If the berating from the President was indeed true, it probably did not sit well for Cojuangco and his crew. A spanking this close to the Games is hard to take sitting down.

Sometimes, playing hard for a coach who rips you at a crucial part of the game becomes improbable. You'd rather stand around than fly around. You'd rather lose a ball than chase down a loose ball.

Anyway, the 23rd SEA Games formally opens on Sunday.

Strike up the band. Or cue the funeral dirge.

The hour of Peping Cojuangco's redemption or reckoning is almost here.

Sports Note: For someone temporary lacking a laptop and hi-tech accoutrements, the Candon City Cyber Library has been heavensent. Started as a regular library with books, the place became digital in 2002, with funding from Ilocos Sur Congressman Eric Singson. Now with more than 20 computers, the library offers students and other interested parties with unlimited research through the wonders of the worldwide web. Eric's son, Allen, the current city mayor sees to it that the cyber library is in shape.

Tough test awaits SEA Games golf field

By Musong R. Castillo

CANLUBANG, LAGUNA—MORE than the Thais, the Indons and the Malaysians, the Philippine golf squads teeing up in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games will have to contend with the tough The Country Club course.

The exclusive all-weather layout here will be a great test for the Dec. 1-4 competition with premium on length and precise tee shots.

The rough have been grown to major championship length and the 7,135-yard course will be playing to a par of only 70 from the normal 72 after the par-5 Nos. 8 and 10 were shorted to par-4s for the tournament.

The National Golf Association of the Philippines coaching staff expects the rough, untouched for three months now, to be at least three inches in height and super thick when action unfolds on Dec. 1 with the men's tournament.

"A tee shot that lands on the rough practically guarantees bogey or worse," said vice-admiral Luisito Fernandez, also the NGAP sec-gen. "That's why our coaching staff has concentrated their training for our players to hit it straight."

In a related development, Malaysia opted not to send a women's team, leaving only six teams in the division which will start play on Dec. 2.

Thailand is the defending champion in both divisions after Vietnam scratched golf from the roster of events in 2003.

Juvic Pagunsan eyes a second straight individual title but the Philippines will try to improve on a bronze medal finish in team play in both divisions in Kuala Lumpur four years ago.

Three veterans of Kuala Lumpur and a newcomer in former Singapore amateur champion Michael Bibat.

Jay Bayron and Marvin Dumandan, who were with Pagunsan in Kuala Lumpur, are also back in the men's team along with former Singapore amateur champion Michael Bibat.

Jayvie Marie Agojo, Anya Tanpinco and Frances Bondad make up the women's squad.

Thailand has been orphaned by ace Chinarat Padungsil, who turned pro more than a month ago, and is not as rock-solid unlike Malaysia, which will be bannered by David Leadbetter protégé Ben Leong.

The men's format is four-to-play, three-to-count while the top two of three scores in women's play count.

RP eyes better finish in Para Games

By Cynthia D. Balana

DESPITE THE LACK OF RESOURCES AND LITtle assistance from the national government, the Philippines will be represented by 197 disabled athletes and officials in the 3rd Asean Para Games to be held in Manila from Dec. 14 to 21.

The announcement was jointly made by Social Welfare and Development Acting Secretary Lualhati Pablo and Michael Barredo, chair of the Philippine Asean Para Games Organizing Committee (Papgoc) during a press conference yesterday.

Pablo said the DSWD was helping the disabled athletes because the disabled sector is one of the sectors being championed by the department.

This is the first time the Philippines will host this event, which will open on Dec. 14 at the Rizal Memorial track oval a week after the close of the Southeast Asian Games.

The Asean Para Games is a biennial multi-sports events for disabled persons and aims to promote friendship and solidarity among them in the region.

The first Asean Para Games was held in Malaysia where the Philippines ranked only sixth in the overall medal tally standing. In the second para games held in Vietnam, the Philippines finished fifth.

Barredo said that the disabled athletes vowed to improve their standing despite the lack of training venues which were being used by Philippine athletes participating in the SEA Games.

"Our athletes have been training on their own despite the scarce resources and help from the government. Still, I would like to congratulate them for this. I don't think we've the edge over other athletes but they said they will try their best," Barredo said.

He said participating athletes included amputees, those in wheelchairs, and those who are blind.

About 1,250 disabled delegates from member-countries are expected to showcase their athletic prowess in 10 regular events and four demonstration sports. The main sports include athletics, swimming, badminton, table tennis, wheelchair basketball, and goal ball while the demonstration sports include boccia, sailing, tenpin bowling and fencing. About 1,746 medals are at the stake.

Malaysia will be sending 164 disabled athletes, Thailand, 252; Myanmar, 30; Laos, 14; Brunei; 38; Timor Leste, 24; Singapore, 46; Cambodia, 15; and Vietnam, 98.

A PARTICIPANT in the coming 3rd Asean Para Games. JOAN BONDOC

Fil-Am gymnast eyes 3 golds

By Dennis U. Eroa
Libre Sports Editor

THE FIRST THING YOU'LL SENSE from Fil-Am gymnast Neil Faustino is the unwavering dedication to succeed.

Unmindful of all the attention surrounding him, Faustino finished his routine on the rings with aplomb yesterday at the Rizal Memorial Gymnastics Center.

"I feel great and excited," said Faustino, 22, when asked about his second straight stint for the Philippine team in the Southeast Asian Games.

Charlie Nelson, his longtime coach in the US, said Faustino will be in tiptop shape come the SEAG.

"He's peaking at the right time," said Nelson.

The son of Noli and Binggay Faustino then joined a huddle with national coach Santiago Ty, teammates Roel, Ronnie and Al Ramirez, Bonnie Sy and Frederic Rocas.

"We have a wonderful team. We help each other," said Faustino. Roel Ramirez is the other spearhead of the national team.

The 5-foot-5 Faustino won a gold on the rings two years ago in the Vietnam SEAG.

This time, Faustino isn't just looking for a single gold. On top of the rings, he is picked to figure prominently in the vault and floor exercises.

"It's going to be a wonderful experience playing in front of you guys," Faustino said.

Faustino, an academic All-American playing out of University of Illinois-Chicago, gained the admiration of a country hungry for a sporting hero when he didn't pull strings to make the national team for the 2001 SEAG.

His only wish: he wanted to bring Nelson with him.

As a walk-in, he was impressive during a workout with veteran members of the national team, earning the nod of Ty. Then Philippine Olympic Committe president Celso Dayrit approved Faustino's inclusion to the national gymnastics team which was moving heaven and earth to erase the stigma of a no-gold performance in the 1991 Kuala Lumpur SEAG.

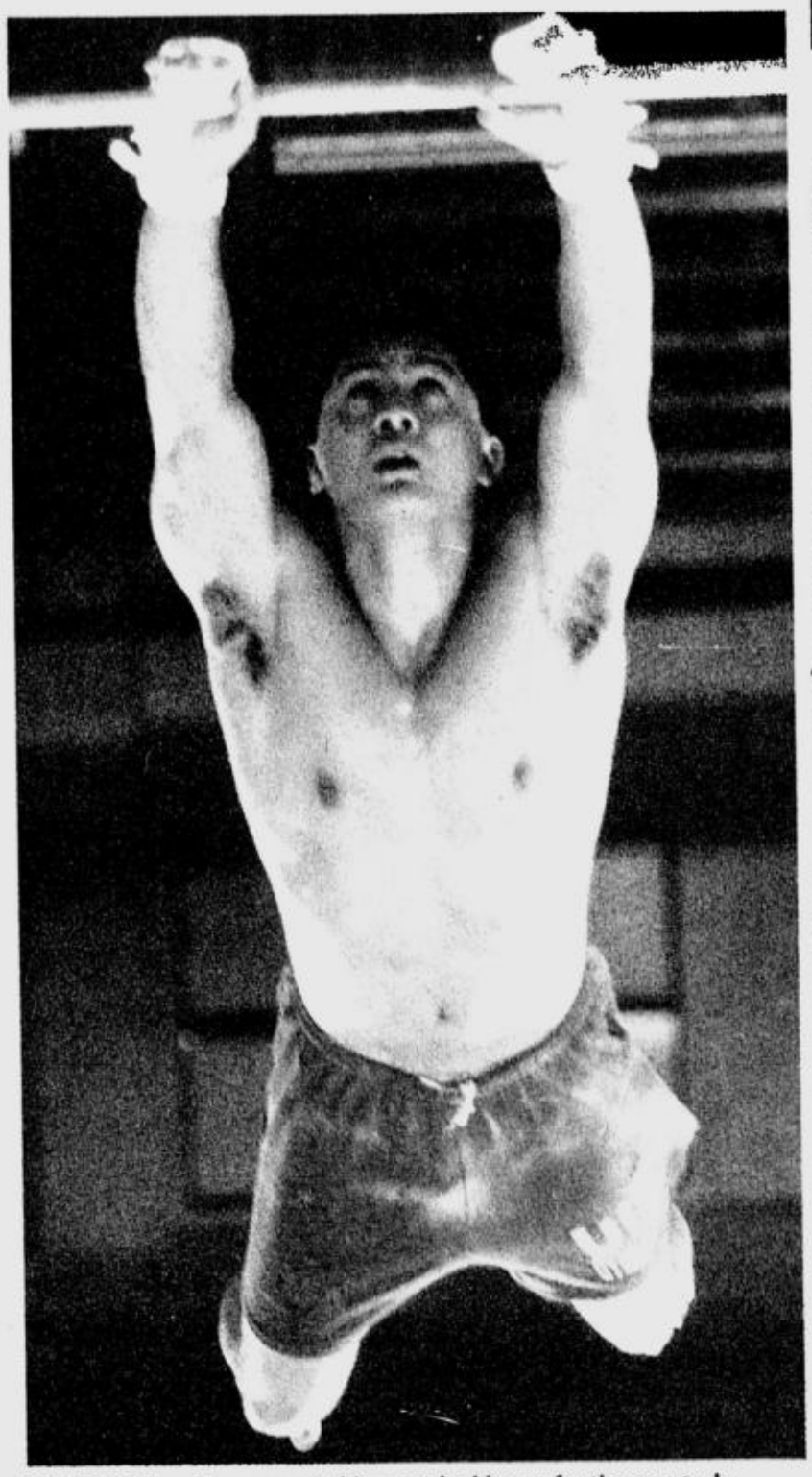
A total of 24 golds are at stake in men's and women's gymnastics.

"We're looking at 6 to 8 golds," said Ty.

Choosing his words carefully, a former *karateka* and diver at Lincoln High, Faustino said he isn't going to promise big things in the Games.

"I'll just work hard and have fun," Faustino said.

Faustino, who is one year away from finishing a computer engineering degree, again came to represent at no expense to the gymnastics association.



WITH Neil Faustino around, things are looking up for the country's gymnastics squad. RODEL ROTONI

Sportsman-businessman Johnny Valdes, owner of the world-wide Johnny Air Cargo and uncle of Faustino, foots the bills for the gymnast and his coach.

"Aside from his athletic prowess, Neil is also a very bright student. By also putting premium on his studies, Neil also sets an example among our athletes," Valdes said.

Early this year, Valdes also helped the national team perform well during a competition in New York.

Faustino says that this may be his final SEAG.

"After the Games, I'm going to visit a lot of places and go back to the US to get my degree," Faustino said.

As he picked his way through the chaos of the age-old gym, Faustino was quick to acknowledge admirers.

He peeked at the nearby Rizal Memorial Coliseum, a basketball coliseum which is converted into a gymnastics halls for the competitions.

"I'll be fine here," said Faustino.

Now, that's good news for the Philippines.

RP beach volley bets pumped up

By Christian Irl Tan
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—BORN AND RAISED IN California, Filipino-Americans Heidi Ilustre and Chad Mowrey had long wanted to represent the country in international meets. They just couldn't find the opportunity in the past.

Now that they have the chance to do so in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games, they have set their sights on nothing less but the Philippines' first gold medal in beach volleyball.

"I've been wanting to play for Philippines for the longest of times, but I just did not know how to do it," Ilustre, who has been competing in the American Volleyball Professionals Tour, said after arriving at the airport here yesterday.

Mowrey and Ilustre will banner Team B of the RP beach volleyball squads, respectively, together with other Fil-Ams. Mowrey will be teamed up with Justin Schonmor, while Ilustre will play with Diane Pascua.

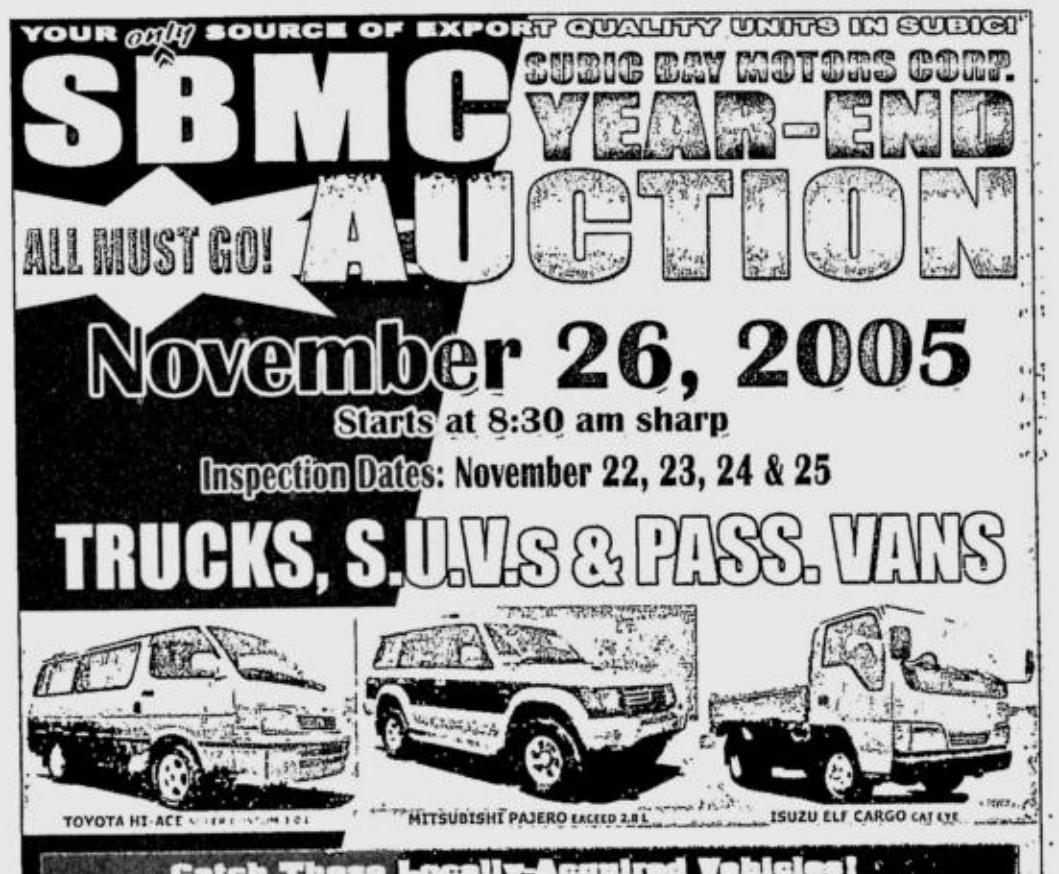
"I'm excited, but at the same time nervous because my parents and relatives in Manila are coming over to watch the games," the 5-foot-10 Ilustre, who is ranked seventh in the AVP Tour, said.

Mowrey is residing in Redondo Beach, while the 27-year-old Ilustre grew up in Carson City before she moved to Honolulu, Hawaii in 1996.

"It feels good to be here (Philippines) and I'm really looking forward to make the Filipino colors proud," said the 6-foot-1 Mowrey, who is in the country for the first time. "I hope to win the gold for the Philippines."

The Philippines last saw action in the 1997 SEA Games in Jakarta, Indonesia where it place fifth in both men and women's play.

"I wish that I could represent Philippines every SEA Games and if possible, also in the Asian Games," he said.



HEARTSTART FOR SEAG: Philips, the leader in defibrillation technology, is equipping the 23rd Southeast Asian Games with Philips Heartstart Defibrillators through the Philippine Center for Sports Medicine. The HeartStart units will be put at venues where there are high risks for sudden cardiac arrest. Butch Soriano (right), Philips Medical Systems general manager, turns over the HeartStart units to Dr. Marion Rivera of PCSM.

Mayors ask support for Filipino athletes

TWO METRO MANILA MAYORS URGED THE stop of politicking in sports and instead called on leaders to support the Filipino athletes' bid in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games.

San Juan Mayor Joseph Victor Ejercito and Feliciano Belmonte of Quezon City expressed the same sentiment when the meet's torch relay passed by their respective areas yesterday afternoon.

"Let's put sports ahead of politics," Ejercito told reporters upon the symbolic flame's arrival at the Tanghalan ng Masa in San Juan City.

The San Juan gym will be hosting the fencing events of the biennial meet.

Belmonte encouraged his constituents to watch the events to be held at the Amoranto Velodrome.

Rey tops Rotary golfest

ROTARY Club of Novaliches' Rey Daquigan romped off with the overall crown in the 10th RGFFP (Rotary Golfing Fellowship Foundation of the Philippines) Asian tournament held recently in Shanghai, China. Former senator Tito Sotto ruled the guest division, producing a gross score of 80 on 10 pars against eight bogeys. Rotarians from seven clubs from Baguio to General Santos competed in the event. RGFFP will also hold its 20th annual golf tournament on Jan. 18-21 at the Baguio Country Club and Camp John Hay courses. To mark the event, RGFFP will organize a medical and dental mission for around 600 beneficiaries in Baguio City. It will also feature the National Golf Caddy's Tournament.

Red Horse Speedfest

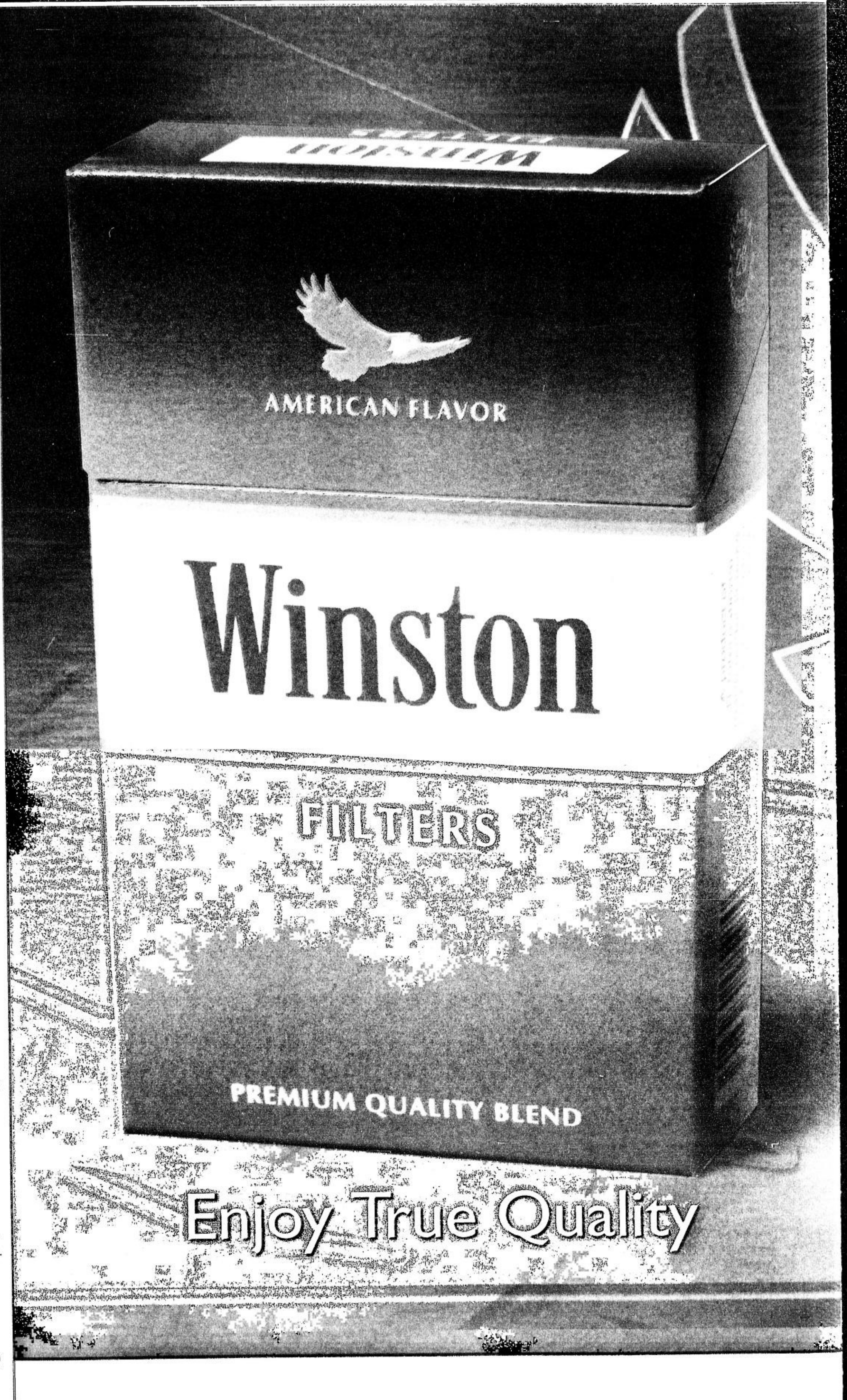
THE ULTIMATE Red Horse Beer-Smart Buddy Speedfest Championship goes to Subic Bay Freeport Zone for the 5th round of motocross and 4x4 trials this weekend. "We are very happy that we are back in Subic for the Karakoa Festival," said veteran racer Mike Potenciano, also the chief MP Turbo organizer. The event is held in cooperation with the SBMA headed by Chair Feliciano Salonga, Administrator Armand Arreza and Tourism Officer Kenneth Peralta along with Olongapo City Vice Mayor Rolen Paulino. For details, call 0919-94921575.

Big Event at PCC on

THE LAST stag derby for 2005 of the Gentlemen Cockers Association of the Philippines (GCAP) will be staged at the Pasay City Cockpit today via the crowd-drawing Big Event 5-stag derby with Sagupaan Complex-or 3000 as exclusive sponsor. Leading the list of participants are GCAP Stagfighter of the Year Pol Estrellado, Big Event II champs Patrick Antonio and Jun Topacio, Benjie Lim, Pepito Ngo, Jet Fernando, Tony Panopio, Bong Villanueva, NCA Stagfighter of the Year Rudy Albano, Mayor Nene Aguilar, Gerry Ramos, LGBA Stagfighter Sonny Lagon, Rep. Jing Paras Gerry "Boy" Espina and Arnold Mendoza. Also slated at the Pasay Cockpit are two 4-cock derbies on Dec. 2 (Tony Panopio of Batangas) and Dec. 9 (Pasay Employees). The annual Pasko Na Sa Pasay 5-cock derby rages on Dec. 16 and 18. Call 843-1890, 843-1746 and 816-6750 for details.

Bakbakan Saturday

THREE more days of fierce battle will be unleashed in connection with the "2005 Bakbakan 9-stag derby," an undertaking of the National Federation of Gamefowl Breeders (NFGB) in cooperation with Gran Matador and B-Meg. Fights will be staged at the Araneta Coliseum on Saturday and Monday (Nov. 26 and 28). Likewise, pit action sizzles at San Juan Coliseum on Sunday, Nov. 27. "To accommodate the big number of fights, the NFGB decided to stage more than 100 fights at SJC on Sunday," said NFGB president Ricoy Palmares. For details, contact 911-3101 and 911-2928.



Winston
Spirit of the U.S.A.
Winston
Hard pack.
New look. New spirit.
nt Warning:
ngerous to your health.

Tough Truck slated

THE COUNTRY'S finest 4x4 thrill seekers get one final taste of adventure this year when Caltex DELO Sports Tough Truck Challenge starts on Nov. 26 to 27 at the Frontera Verde, Tiendesitas, Ortigas corner C5 Avenue in Pasig City. Skillful drivers aboard their monster trucks will try to unleash their competitive juices flowing for one final time this year in this event which is now on its fifth year. "This is not only the year's final off-road competition of extreme importance, it can also be considered as the season's biggest in terms of the level of competition," said Peter Nolasco, president of the host club Manila Off-Roaders, Inc. (MORI). Over 60 drivers from all over the Philippines are expected to participate in the race. Sanctioned by the National Association of Filipino Off-Roaders (NASFOR), which is headed by its President, Brian U. Diaz, the event is backed by DELO Sports Synthetic Blend Oil. Primary come-on of this year's event is the highly technical course which is designed by Erwin Gumban of the 4 Wheelers Davao. The 8-hectare race course is composed of tracks A, B and C which are filled with different obstacles. NASFOR race director Jojo Fuentes said that rules and regulations will be strictly enforced.

Conti rules Hot Street

ROSARIO, Batangas—Raymond Conti of the Group N Team emerged champion in the Hot Street division even as rains forced organizers to stop the kickoff of the 2005 Red Horse-PCSO National Drag Racing Championship BRC Drag Strip and set it on a later date. The 24-year-old Conti, who beat Marlon Juntilla in the semifinal round, clocked 16.56 seconds aboard his Honda to thwart Mark Anthony de Ade in the finals face-off. De Ade, who barged into the finals by beating Prince Ian Mazo, was actually just 0.06 seconds behind as they reached the finish line. Conti brought home the top purse of P5,000 cash and Denso Iridium Power freebies while De Ade got the P3,000 runner-up prize. Sonny de Torres submitted the fastest dial slip time 12.047 seconds, shattering the previous record of 12.134 seconds posted by Blanche Racing's Jose Uy in the 2nd BRC Drag Racing Festival last Aug. 20. Contact BRC manager Sherwin Mojica or Nelson Gayola at (632) 817-2241, 729-5365 or fax 815-1241 for details.

On-Line chessfest

THE FIFTH and last leg of the 2005 On-Line Care National Executives chess championship will be held Nov. 26 at the 5th Level, Pearl Plaza Mall, Quirino Avenue, Tambo, Parañaque City. The last leg will determine the eight qualifiers from each division who will complete the semifinals slated Dec. 10 at the same venue. The semis will be a 9-round Swiss system which will determine the top 10 finalists for each division. The grand finals in January will be a round-robin affair among the 10 finalists from each group. For information, contact Francis Geriane at 0916-9118449, Boyet Tardecilla at 0921-5307050, NM Efren Bagamsbad at 0910-8089996 and Dr. Jenny Mayor at 0919-4782209/0915-7828666.

Wizards rally for win No. 5

GAMES TOMORROW
(JCSGO Gym)
2 p.m.—Toyota Otis vs Montaña
4 p.m.—Harbour Centre vs Hapee-PCU

ARWIND SANTOS KNOCKED IN crucial baskets in the final period to lead the Magnolia Wizards past struggling Toyota Otis, 73-64, and stretch their unbeaten PBL Heroes Cup record to five games yesterday at the JCSGO Gym in Cubao.

Santos topscored with 16 points while role player Jason Misolas and Fil-Am Kelly Williams combined for 27 as Magnolia dealt the Knights a fourth loss in five games.

Earlier, Jay-R Reyes delivered another brilliant performance as Rain or Shine slipped past Harbour Centre, 74-70, in overtime.

Reyes shot five of his 17 points in extra time and had 15 rebounds.

Rain or Shine joined Granny Goose and Montaña in second spot at 3-2 while Harbour Centre absorbed its third straight loss for a 2-3 card.

"Reyes is improving a lot as shown in our past two games and I just hope he can continue playing that way," said coach Caloy Garcia of his 6-foot-7 center, who posted 16 points, 10 rebounds and six blocks in his last game.

Jojo Tangkay drilled in a game-high 19 for the Elasto Painters, who overhauled a 12-point deficit in regulation.

The Wizards, who trailed most of the game, scored six unanswered points to extend their lead to 63-55 from 57-55.

The Elasto Painters banked on Tangkay and Eugene Tan's back-to-back baskets to wrest the lead, 73-70, after Joseph Yeo's triple put the Portmasters ahead, 69-70. *Jasmine W. Payo*

The scores:

First Game

RAIN OR SHINE 74—Tangkay 19, Reyes 17, Cabatu 9, Malabanan 8, Sta. Maria 6, Enrile 5, Tan 4, Ortiguerra 4, Aljamal 2, Sagad 0, Guevarra 0.

HARBOUR CENTRE 70—Yeo 19, Luanzon 11, Abadia 8, Raymundo 8, Dela Peña 7, Gaco 6, Arellano 5, Alonzo 2, Reyes 2, Paterno 2, Vicente 0, Saguindel 0.

Quarters: 19-21, 34-43, 48-59, 65-65, 74-70 (OT)

Second Game

MAGNOLIA 73—Santos 16, Misolas 14, Williams 13, Angeles 11, Chan 8, Bombeo 6, Co 3, Jones 2, Valenzuela 0, Te 0, Barcellano 0.

TOYOTA OTIS 64—Devance 14, Aban 3, Bautista 10, Larong 9, Oreta 5, Capati 4, Aldave 4, Andaya 2, Daa 2, Rodriguez 0, Tagupa 0.

Quarters: 19-15, 31-39, 48-53, 73-64

TALK 'N Text center Asi Taulava signs an autograph for a student of North Western University during a Campus Tour which is part of the PBA All-Star weekend game in Laoag City. RYAN LIM

Rookies-sophs match ushers in All-Star tilt

GAMES TODAY
(Ilocos Norte Centennial Arena)
4:45 p.m.—All-Star Side Events
6:45 p.m.—Rookies vs Sophomores Game

By June Navarro

LAOAG CITY—EVEN ON A BREAK, the Philippine Basketball Association never runs out of innovations.

The 31-year-old professional league has thrust its newcomers into the limelight by introducing the Rookies vs Sophomores Blitz Game in this year's 2005 Talk 'N Text PBA All-Star Weekend.

And with a local pride playing in it, the game featuring the most promising freshman and second-year players might as well upstage the centerpiece North versus South All-Star game tomorrow at the Ilocos Norte Centennial Arena here.

Red Bull rookie Leo Najorda, who grew up in nearby San Nicolas town, will be coming home in the place where he learned the fundamentals of the sport.

Najorda's presence in this annual PBA spectacle has generated a solid fan base that transformed the rookies-sophomores encounter into a much-awaited clash.

"This is the place where I created a name by playing basketball," said the 6-foot-3 forward out of San Sebastian College in the NCAA.

Proceeds of the event will go to the city's scholarship foundation and persons with disabilities, according to Laoag Mayor Mike Fariñas.

The league has institutionalized the rookie-sophomore blitz game with unique set of rules and regulations never used before in the history of the annual classic.

Alex Cabagnot and Cesar Catli of Sta. Lucia Realty will banner the north squad along with Jondan Salvador of Purefoods, Niño Canaleta of Air21, Talk 'N Text's Mark Cardona, Ginebra's Michael Holper, Red Bull's Larry Fonacier and Najorda.

They will be ranged against a sophomore team led by Air21's Wesley Gonzales, Ranidel de Ocampo and Gary David, Nelbert Omolon of Sta. Lucia, Ginebra's Ervin Sotto, Paul Artadi of Purefoods, Warren Ybañez (Red Bull), Niño Gelig (Talk 'N Text).

Taino arrives, completes RP men's tennis squad

ERIC TAINO, THE SECOND FIL-American in the Philippine men's tennis team, arrived yesterday and immediately plunged to work with the 23rd Southeast Asian Games just two days away.

The 30-year-old completed the national lineup and worked out with the rest of the team despite jetlag.

"If there are four gold medals at stake, we will go for four," Taino, a regular in the money-rich ATP Tour, said. "I think I'm entered in all four events. We'll see what happens."

Taino is a native of New Jersey and is currently ranked 213th in the world.

Cecil Mamiit is the other Fil-Am in the men's team who will be joined by homegrown bets Patrick John Tierro and Johnny Arcilla.

"They're good players. In fact, we have a good chance (in the SEAG)," said Tierro.

A total of seven gold medals will be staked in the men and women's divisions. *Apolinario G. Mapacpac, contributor*

ELIGIBILITY SCANDAL

UAAP summons DLSU players, officials

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE UAAP FACT-FINDING COMmittee tasked to investigate the eligibility case involving two Green Archers opened its probe yesterday by inviting five key personalities from La Salle and several officials from the Department of Education.

The committee summoned Mark Benitez and Timoteo Gatchalian III, the two players who submitted false Philippine Educational Placement Test (PEPT) results to gain eligibility in the university.

Also called to shed light on the case were former assistant team manager Manny Salgado and contractual statistician Raul Lacson, tagged by La Salle as the two officials who helped the cagers secure the fake documents.

Executive vice president Dr. Carmelito Quebengco was also invited to clarify several items on the La Salle report.

"The report was considered incomplete and that there are questions left to be answered," said committee member Ricardo Matibag of Adamson University after the UAAP board received a two-page case report from La Salle last Nov. 9.

Matibag noted that the DepEd officials who certified Benitez's and Gatchalian's PEPT results were also invited.

The five-man panel, however, has yet to set its next meeting on the cage inquiry.

Fr. Nat de Sagun of University of Santo Tomas chairs the committee composed of Josie de Leon of Far Eastern University, Arlene Royo of National University and league legal counsel lawyer Rene Villa.

Meanwhile, the second-semester senior games will be played in January to give way to the 23rd Southeast Asian Games.

Athletics, badminton, lawn tennis, softball, baseball, taekwondo, football and fencing are among the sports scheduled on the second semester.

Junior volleyball matches, though, will kick off on Dec. 3 at the University of the East gym.

Although its been said many times, many ways

This season, greet them all over again by giving them The Ayala Cinemas' Prepaid Tickets

Get a Complimentary Ticket for every purchase of ten (10) Prepaid Tickets.
Available at any Ayala Cinemas' ticketbooths.
(Alabang Town Center, Glorietta 1, Glorietta 4, Greenbelt 1 & Greenbelt 3)

AYALA CINEMAS

Promo period: Nov. 18 to Dec. 25, 2005. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4022. Series of 2005.

GMA leads South Forbes Golf City grand launching

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO led the Grand Launch of South Forbes Golf City as guest of honor Wednesday night at the NBC Tent.

The President unveiled the full scale model of the 250-hectare South Forbes with Cathay Land officials. South Forbes, dubbed as the country's first world-class golf resort city, will entail a P5.25 billion investment for developer Cat-hay Land over the next five to 10 years.

She saw the strong potential of South Forbes, since it perfectly combines residential, leisure, business, commercial and golf aspects.

Already finished are the Mediterranean community of South Forbes Villas and the resort-inspired Bali Mansions. Three new prestige projects were launched during the night: the lifestyle condominium project of Esplanade, another condo project facing the fairways called Golf View Terraces, and Tokyo Mansions: the country's first Modern Zen-theme community. These projects will entail P1.6 billion in investments.

Other projects involve the world-class, all-weather, 18-hole South Forbes Golf Club. The golf course was designed by Asia's leading golf course designer, the International Management Group (IMG), and will incur another P500 million in investment.

Cathay Land will also develop the Astoria Plaza Sta. Rosa. It will host full conference and business facilities and a spa and wellness center to serve the growing needs of multinational corporations based in Metro Sta. Rosa for a full-service hotel within the area. It will be developed in the next two years.

Taken altogether, the five projects total P3.1 billion in investment in South Forbes until 2007. The construction, architecture, design, and planning-related work will create a strong ripple effect within Metro Sta. Rosa, according to Cathay Land president Jeffrey Ng.

A Cyberpark is also being planned so that South Forbes residents can build careers in call centers and business process outsourcing (BPO) firms within a few minutes from their homes. Once the South Forbes Cyberpark is launched, it will likely create thousands of jobs that will support President Arroyo's drive to create job opportunities for Filipinos.

Ng expressed his gratitude to Ms Arroyo for joining them in this special occasion. "South Forbes is the fruition of years of hard work in our efforts to create the Philippines' first world-class golf resort city. Her recognition of our vision for South Forbes and our unwavering commitment to uplift the country's economy through our investments, make us all the more proud," Ng said.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo leads the unveiling of the master plan for South Forbes Golf City in Metro Sta. Rosa. With her are Cathay Land EVP Jose Balonan, president Jeffrey Ng, Olivia Ng, and Chairman Ambassador John K.C. Ng.

UST, La Salle retain crowns

UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS AND DE LA SALLE fashioned out contrasting victories to rule the centerpiece college division in the just-concluded JVC Inter-scholastic Badminton Championships at the Glorietta Wednesday. Alfredo Mailon dominated Mark Alvin Natividad in the third set of the second singles, 15-13, 17-15, 15-3, to clinch a come-from-behind 2-1 victory for the UST shuttlers over Far Eastern U in the men's division. Rey Selga and Paolo Dawal posted a 15-11, 15-11 victory over Wilmer Frias and Recson Salvaleon to take the doubles match.

BOSCH BACKS SY: Robert Bosch, Inc., has renewed its agreement with Demvels Motorsports, which represents racing sensation Tyson Sy, to sponsor his racing programs for 2006. From left are Christian Lukas, managing director, Robert Bosch, Inc.; Antonio Leonardo, general manager, Automotive Division; Sy and Kendrick Sy, general manager, Demvels Motorsports.

Grand Cebu opening set

CEBU CITY—DOWN HERE, IT ISN'T going to get any bigger than this.

The Cebu Southeast Asian Games Organizing Committee (CebuSoc) promises a grand opening ceremony Sunday, with a huge crowd expected to gather at the Cebu City Sports Center for festivites that will be colored with Southern flavor.

"It will be the mother of all opening ceremonies, at least in the Southern part of the country," said CebuSoc chair Jonathan Guardo. "Everything has been set for Cebu's hosting of the Games, beginning with colorful festivities welcoming the delegates."

Ticket sales alone point to a mammoth opening ceremony. To date, more than 20,000 tickets have been sold for the three-hour festivities that will be highlighted by *Sinulog* performances and other traditional dances featuring the Cebuano culture.

And the highlight of the evening—a P1-million fireworks show.

The opening starts at 4 p.m. with the traditional parade of nations, where various school dance troupes will accompany the delegates wearing their respective national costumes.

A pair of Filipino athletes from the six events to be held in Cebu—judo, karate, dancesport, *sepak takraw*, *pencak silat* and mountainbike—take the oval for the torch run leading to the lighting of the Games' urn by Arnold Balais, a paralympic athlete who won the swim gold in the first Asean Paralympics in Malaysia.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is expected to declare the Games open while boxing icon Manny Pacquiao has been invited to give inspirational message.

Other guests are Cebu Gov. Gwen Garcia and the heads of the three host cities—Cebu City Mayor Tommy Osmeña, Mandaue City Mayor Teddy Ouano and Danao City Mayor Ramonito Durano.

TORCH REACHES TAGUIG

The 23rd Southeast Asian Games fever hits Taguig City with the arrival of the torch relay there. Taguig City Mayor Freddie Tinga (left) receives the symbolic flame of the Games from San Juan Vice Mayor Boy Celes. The torch has been making its rounds around the country. The biennial meet opens formally Sunday at the Quirino Grandstand.

RECORD

Woods claims 6th 'slam' title

POIPU BEACH, HAWAII—TIGER WOODS, who battled a stomach virus in the opening round, won the exclusive 36-hole PGA Grand Slam of Golf for the record sixth time Wednesday, closing with an 8-under 64 for a 7-stroke victory over Phil Mickelson.

Woods pocketed $400,000 and finished with a 13-under 131 total.

Mickelson, the PGA champion, shot a 68 to earn $250,000. US Open champion Michael Campbell shot a 70 to finish 12 strokes back, collecting $200,000. Vijay Singh was another stroke behind after a 69. He took home $150,000.

Woods was never seriously threatened. He opened with a 67 for a 3-stroke lead over Mickelson, and quickly widened the gap to five with birdies on Nos. 2 and 3.

He finished with two eagles, five birdies and a bogey in relatively calm conditions on the oceanside 7,123-yard Poipu Bay Golf Course. He was bogey-free on the back nine for the second day.

On the 573-yard sixth hole, Woods split the fairway with a 344-yard drive and hit a 5-iron, to set up a 55-foot, uphill putt that curled to the left and dropped into the cup. The gallery roared as Woods sheepishly grinned.

On the par-5 14th, Woods drove 293 yards into the wind and blasted a 3-wood from 244 yards out onto the green.

WOODS: Never threatened AP

"Oh baby, how about this shot I just hit," he said, watching the towering shot. "That was pretty cool."

He then holed a 12-foot eagle putt.

Woods also barely missed a long eagle putt on the final hole. *AP*

RACING

Empire King faces tougher test

AT SLLP BY MR. 999
Race 1—1. Sweet Inspiration 2. No Compromise 3. Over Land 4. Come In Glory
Race 2—1. Earth Wind N Fire 2. Romario 3. Ravishing Raffy 4. Gelay's Charm
Race 3—1. Kahgatan 2. Fablola 3. Grand Fiesta 4. Lucky Punch 5. Best Strike
Race 4—1. Silver Cho Cho 2. Strong Jays 3. Top of D Line 4. Scarlet Beauty
Race 5—1. Stallone 2. Tres Jeune 3. Ilocos Pride 4. Angie Gray/Coromell 5. Luck of the Irish 6. Ahoy My Boy
Race 6—1. Princess Sarah 2. Federal Court 3. Bold Lucky 4. God Is Good
Race 7—1. Smooth Strike 2. Miss Bobon 3. Si Isidro Ko 4. Modern Classic 5. Open Sky
Race 8—1. Step on the Gas 2. Daldalera 3. Western Dancer 4/ Native Prince
Race 9—1. Speed King 2. Perky Perp 3. Going Strike 4. Perfect Harry 5. Ocean Cookie 6. Musikero

WHEN EMPIRE KING SETS OUT TO defend his Presidential Gold Cup title next mount, he may find the going a lot tougher than last year.

The 2004 Horse of the Year is coming into the country's most prestigious racing event still nursing a loss in the Marho Classic. Adding to his woes is the fact that he will be burdened by the top weight of 58 kilos as he aims to score a rare repeat.

Furthermore, the son of Perfect Halo is clashing head-on with the finest locally-bred chargers around led no less by the land's top 3-year-old runner Real Spicy and his streaking stablemate Euro Bucks.

Then there are perennial rivals Cover Girl, 2003 PGC champion Red Star Rising, Speed Advantage and Don Paolo.

Also joining the hunt for the P1.5-million winner's prize in the 2,000-meter battle are Cool Runnings, Cat's Gold and Last Hazm.

Empire King labored to rule last year's PGC staging. Under Jeffrey Ladiana, he edged West Bound by a nose in one of the most thrilling finishes recorded in the race that honors the country's chief executive.

On Dec. 11 at the San Lazaro Leisure Park, Jeffrey Cordero will be aboard Empire King, who could only land third in the Marho Classic last Sunday after looking invincible following his Philtobo Classic triumph.

As a coupled bet, Hermie Esguerra's Real Spicy (Real Quiet-Spicy Tale) and red-hot filly Euro Bucks (Account of Grace-Leveret) could be the biggest stumbling blocks for Empire King. Real Spicy is shooting for the biggest win of his sterling career, while Euro Bucks hopes to snare her eighth consecutive victory during the 33rd running of the keenly-awaited spectacle.

Cover Girl (Khozaam-Gallant Native) is beaming with confidence after bouncing back to claim the Marho Classic via a photo-finish decided win over Don Paolo. Cover Girl landed sixth in last year's PGC.

As for Red Star Rising (Khozaam-Ito's Choice), this year's edition could be his final stab for glory. He aimed for a repeat in 2004 but could only finish third.

Sources said the Trillana Stable bet is bound for retirement after the 2005 racing season. For copping the 2003 Gold Cup, Red Star Rising will also carry a 58-kilo impost weight.

Don Paolo showed in the Marho Classic how dangerous he is when allowed to dictate the pace. He will use that same style again in his bid to erase the stigma of his 10th-place finish when he joined last year's hostilities.

Is RP ready for 23rd SEA Games?

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

FINALLY THE FOCUS SHIFTS FROM THIS strife-torn nation to the athletes of Southeast Asia, who are here to compete in the 23rd SEA Games set from Nov. 27 to Dec. 5.

On Sunday afternoon, the symbolic SEAG Torch will be ignited at the Luneta grandstand before some 4,000 athletes from 11 countries who will launch their quest for the 439 gold medals up for grabs in 40 sports.

Busan Asian Games equestrian champion and 2002 PSA Athlete of the Year Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski will carry the Philippine flag ahead of an 899-member RP delegation during the two-hour long opening ceremonies starting at 5:30 p.m.

A record crowd of 300,000 people, led by President Macapagal-Arroyo, is expected to attend the inaugural rites.

The National Capital Regional Police Office will be on full alert as part of its efforts to secure the athletes and team officials. Director Vidal Querol, NCRPO chief, said a total of 15,000 policemen, firefighters, doctors and volunteers will secure the venues in Metro Manila and other key cities in Luzon and the Visayas.

"We are not taking any chances," said Querol.

Actually, the 23rd edition of the games has started with the football and water polo events. For this year's biennial meet, there are eight venues spread across the country—Cebu, Bacolod, Subic, Tagaytay, Angeles City, Los Baños, Canlubang and Manila, where a replica of the symbolic torch will also be lit at the historic Rizal Memorial Track-Football Stadium, site of the athletics competitions, the main event in any sporting show.

Are we ready for the 23rd SEA Games?

"We are ready," said Philippine Southeast Asian Games Organizing Committee (Philsoc) chair Jose "Peping" Cojuangco.

"Our progress has been better than expected," added Cojuangco, who is also the president of the Philippine Olympic Committee. "Everything is falling into place despite the odds, including the lack of funding." And, even without basketball in the SEAG calendar, he was confident the country would be able to host a successful event.

"Sports can bring us together during our troubled times," Cojuangco said, citing as an example boxer Manny Pacquiao. He said Pacquiao's achievements in the world boxing arena have made millions of Filipinos truly proud. "There is now a Manny Pacquiao mania."

***

A BIT OF FIBA HISTORY. The First International Basketball Federation (Fibba) was the forerunner of the present-day Fiba, which was organized in June 1932. Its first president was Leon Bouffard of Switzerland. The body which had original jurisdiction over basketball was the International Amateur Athletics Federation (IAAF) which later gave that mandate to the International Amateur Handball Federation.

In 1934, the Fiba (through the joint efforts of R. William Jones who represented the Swiss Basketball League and Count Giorgio Di San Marzano of Italy) was able to convince the handball federation to renounce its mandate on basketball and recognize Fiba as the only ruling body for basketball.

The reception was initially cold for Jones and Di San Marzano when they lobbied for basketball "independence" during the handball federation congress in August 1934 in Stockholm, but the two cage officials were still given the opportunity to state their case "in a true spirit of sportsmanship and fair play."

Basketball became an Olympic event in the 1936 Berlin Games where the Philippines, making her debut in the dash-and-dribble sport, finished fifth, the country's best finish in the Olympics. Those who carried the RP colors were Ambrosio Padilla, Charles Borck, Primitivo Martinez, Jacinto Ciria Cruz, Bibiano Ouano, Fortunato Yambao, Amador Obordo, John Morrell and Franco Marquicias. As expected, top favorite United States won the gold medal.

SPORTS

Hawks finally take flight

Pistons get back on track; Heat melt Trail Blazers

ATLANTA—THE ATLANTA HAWKS BECAME the last NBA team to win a game, outlasting the Boston Celtics 120-117 Wednesday night as Al Harrington scored 34 points.

Zaza Pachulia added 19 points and 13 rebounds as the Hawks finally won after losing their first nine games—the longest winless start in franchise history.

Joe Johnson scored 13 points, all in the second half, and made three free throws in the final 30 seconds to help the Hawks protect the lead.

Topping their previous scoring high for the season by 23 points, the Hawks finally won by shooting 56 percent from the field.

Paul Pierce hit a 3-pointer at the final buzzer for 33 points. Ricky Davis added 25 points for the Celtics, who fell to 0-4 on the road. Overall, Boston has lost four of its last five games.

In other games, Orlando defeated Washington, 91-83; Phoenix grounded Houston, 100-88; Detroit mauled Denver, 114-89; Charlotte creamed New York, 108-95; Miami crushed Portland, 100-79; Milwaukee whipped Philadelphia, 108-97; New Orleans nipped Minnesota, 84-80; Sacramento tripped New Jersey, 114-105; The LA Clippers edged Toronto, 103-100 and San Antonio waylaid Golden State, 113-89.

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Richard Hamilton scored 19 points and Chauncey Billups added 16 points and 11 assists in the Pistons' victory over the Denver Nuggets.

The victory came four days after the Pistons (9-1) lost for the only time this season, 119-82 in Dallas. Detroit put seven players in double figures and had a season-high 35 assists.

Ben Wallace added 13 points and 13 rebounds for the Pistons, while reserve Maurice Evans scored a season-high 16.

In Houston, Shawn Marion and James Jones each scored 19 points and the Phoenix Suns made 14 of 27 3-pointers to beat the Rockets.

After hitting only 8-of-42 from 3-point range the previous two games, Phoenix had its highest 3-point total of the season. Jones was 5-of-10.

Derek Anderson scored 23 points for Houston. The Rockets, who have lost five straight, played without Tracy McGrady, who missed his third straight game and sixth overall with back problems. He's day-to-day.

In Miami, Dwyane Wade scored 19 points and tied his personal high with 11 rebounds for his 23rd career double-double, leading the Heat past the Portland Trail Blazers.

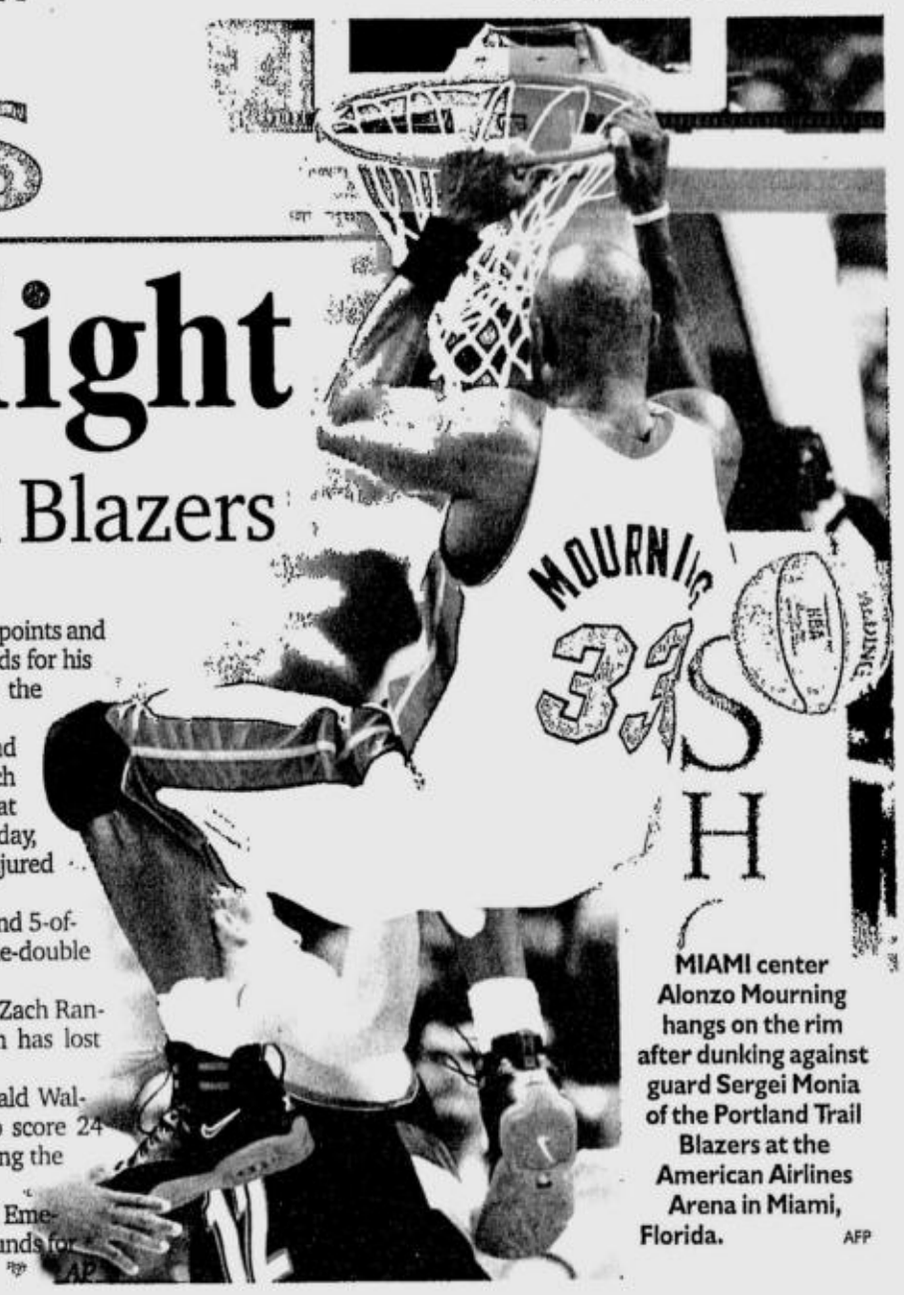
Jason Williams added 16 points, and James Posey and Antoine Walker each had 12 for Miami. Coming off a loss at previously winless Toronto on Sunday, the Heat improved to 5-3 without injured center Shaquille O'Neal.

Wade shot 7-of-13 from the field and 5-of-6 from the foul line in his sixth double-double of the season.

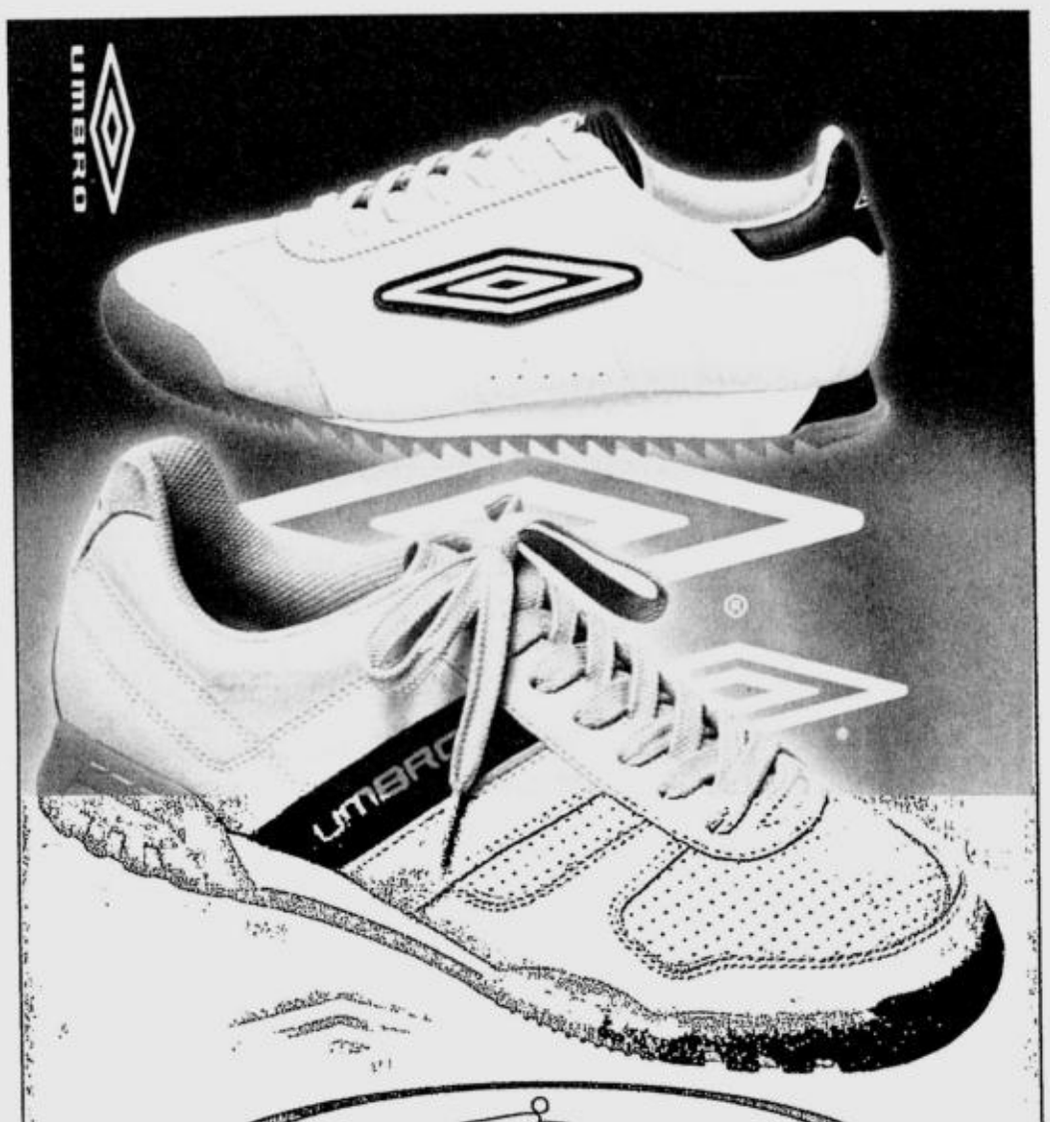
Darius Miles scored 19 points and Zach Randolph added 16 for Portland, which has lost three of four.

In Charlotte, North Carolina, Gerald Wallace returned from a wrist injury to score 24 points and grab nine rebounds, leading the Hornets past the New York Knicks.

Kareem Rush added 22 points and Emeka Okafor had 19 points and 11 rebounds for the Bobcats.



MIAMI center Alonzo Mourning hangs on the rim after dunking against guard Sergei Monia of the Portland Trail Blazers at the American Airlines Arena in Miami, Florida. AFP



BOXING

Thais target overall crown

By Cedelf Tupas
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—THEY refused to give any gold medal prediction but one thing's for sure: Defending boxing champion Thailand still formidable as ever and is raring to continue its reign in the Southeast Asian Games.

Col. Thiliphan Pewsupon, the Thailand manager, yesterday expressed confidence of his team bringing home the overall championship despite the Philippines' homecourt advantage.

"We will be No. 1," said Pewsupon, who arrived here with the Thai pugs Wednesday night.

The Thais won the overall championship in Vietnam two years ago with a 7-gold, 1-silver, 1-bronze medal haul.

But Pewsupon did not give any medal prediction pending the competition's draw on Sunday at the University of St. La Salle Coliseum.

Pewsupon said he is hoping that Thai boxers, trained by Cuban Jorge Hernandez Padron, would not meet the RP pugs in the first-round.

"We hope to meet them in the gold medal matches," he added.

Thai coach Kammanit Nareerakx said the boxing team prepared for six months for the 23rd edition of the SEAG and is using the biennial meet as part of its buildup for the 2008 Olympics in Beijing.

Four of the seven gold medalists in Vietnam are in town along with two Athens Olympic veterans, who will be making up for the absence of Olympic champion Manus Boomjumnong

This year's Thai team will be bannered by Athens silver medalist Worapoj Petchkoom and reigning World and Asian champion Somjit Jongjohor. Both Jongjohor (flyweight), Petchkoom (featherweight), Kaeo Pongprayoon (pinweight) and Pichai Sayota (lightweight) are back to defend their SEA Games titles.

Also with the team are Suban Pannon (light fly), Taengthong Khlongchan (bantam), Kanchana Tungthaisong (pin) and Athens Olympics quarterfinalist Suriya Prasathin Prasathinphimai (middle).

Thailand press turns to Inquirer

BACOLOD CITY—THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER has become a source of information for Thai journalists covering the Southeast Asian Games here.

One of the more than 50 Thai mediamen here, Khan Phungkhun of Bangkok-based Daily News quotes INQUIRER stories on the preparations of SEA Games-bound Filipino athletes.

"I just read that seven boxers are from here. Football writing is also in depth," he said as he admitted that most Thais are not very comfortable with English as their medium.

Phungkun's newspaper's online edition can be accessed by typing www.dailynews.co.th but it is written in Thai language.

Football writer Tor Chittinand of the Bangkok Post also quoted INQUIRER's feature on Fil-Briton brothers Philip James and James Joseph Younghusband for his advancer on the Philippines versus Thailand clash.

Chittinand's story can be read at the Bangkok Post's online edition at www.bangkokpost.com . *Cedelf P. Tupas, PDI Visayas Bureau*

All set for SEAG opening

HOST NATION THE PHILIPPINES AIMS TO top the medal table at the 23rd Southeast Asian Games beginning this weekend but with football the main focus the glory could go to Thailand.

The 10-day biennial showpiece officially opens Sunday in Manila, although events will be held in Bacolod, the central city of Cebu, and suburbs near the capital.

A total of 441 gold medals are up for grabs in 41 events, with the Philippine martial art arnis as well as ballroom dancing making their debuts.

Security is tight with a 17,000-strong police force on alert to ensure the safety of the thousands of athletes and officials taking part, amid the threat of possible attacks by militants.

Philippine Olympic Committee chair Robert Aventajado said his country was angling for gold medals in boxing, equestrian, taekwondo and other martial arts, as well as in athletics.

"We are targeting some 120 gold medals this year, and we are doing our best to land on top," Aventajado said.

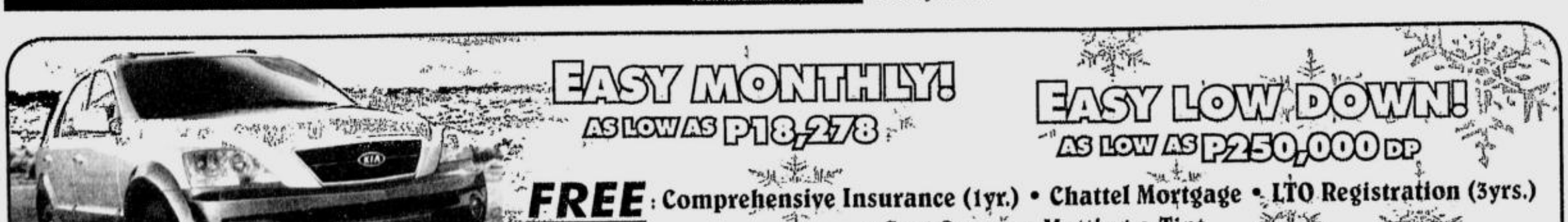
But football will be the main attraction after basketball was pulled from the event at the last minute due to a long-standing squabble among local officials, and defending champions Thailand are hot favorites.

Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam have sent football teams to the central city of Bacolod, where the game enjoys a huge local following.

"I believe Thailand is still the team to beat," Aventajado said, but added that the Philippines will give them a run for their money, while a strong Vietnam squad will also be up there.

The Philippine football team is considered the best the country has ever assembled, buoyed by six Filipino-foreigners including brothers Philip James and James Joseph Younghusband who live in Britain.

They are considered the great hope of football revival in the Philippines, currently ranked a lowly 189th in the world next to tiny Bhutan. *AP*



ENTERTAINMENT

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback:
Inquirer ent name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Program manager defends 'Starstruck'

By Marinel R. Cruz

IF WE SAY THESE KIDS ARE IN the new 'Starstruck' show, they deserve to be there... and not because they have backers at the network."

This was the rejoinder of Jasmin Piad-Nacar, program manager for "Starstruck: The Nationwide Invasion," to reports that some of the finalists did not have to audition because they had influential executives behind them.

"Every one of them underwent screening. We have interview materials to prove this," Nacar stressed. "[In] choosing who to pass or fail, the whole production staff participates."

She added: "When you meet the Final 14 and get to know their backgrounds, you yourself will say they do not need backers."

"Starstruck: The Nationwide Invasion" premieres on GMA 7 on Sunday. Starting Monday, the show will take over the time slot of the top-rating *fantaserye*, "Darna," which airs its final episode tonight.

Nacar also denied talk that GMA 7 planned to confine the finalists in one house and chronicle their interactions over a period of time, like ABS-CBN's "Pinoy Big Brother."

According to Nacar, the new "Starstruck" will be different only in the sense that some of the finalists are from different provinces. A new set of judges will also be introduced.

The score handed down by the Starstruck Council—actors Joey de Leon, Lorna Tolentino and director Louie Ignacio—will make up 50 percent of each finalist's overall score.

On its first week, "Starstruck" will air the selection and elimination process conducted around Manila and in the provinces.

Young actors Mark Herras and Jennylyn Mercado were winners of the first season of "Starstruck." Mike Tan and Ryza Cenon were products of the second season.

Dingdong Dantes is hosting the show for the third straight season. This time, he will share hosting chores with Jolina Magdangal and Raymond Gutierrez.

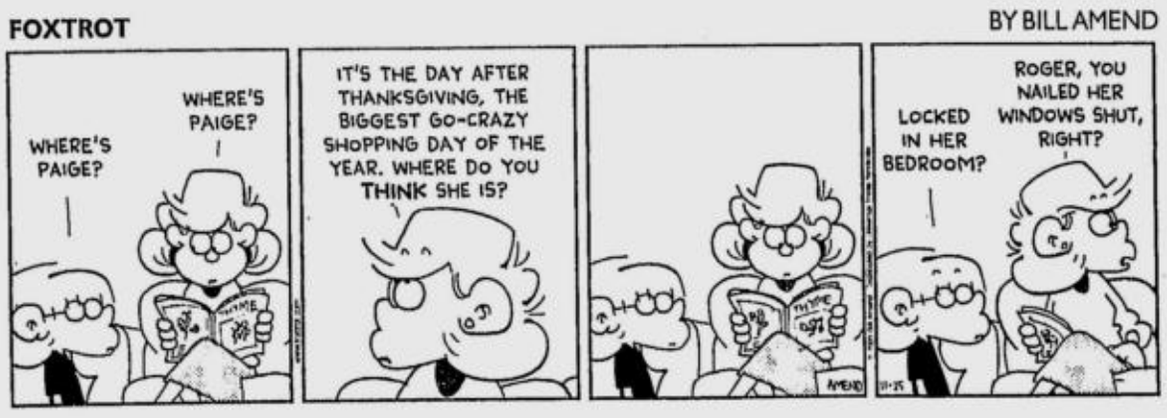
"I can't help but feel attached to the show," Dingdong said. "It hurts to see a contestant devastated when he or she is eliminated. The kids work really hard."

As early as now, Dingdong admitted, he has picked his favorites. "But I and the other hosts try our very best not to show our biases," he said.

JOLINA Magdangal, one of the hosts

FULFILLED Julia Clarete, second from left, won ABC 5's talent search, "Hollywood Dream," over closest rival Raymond Bagatsing, beside her. Among the jurors were Hollywood casting director Mike Fenton and film producer Jeff Rice. Julia will fly to the US to make the movies, "Wrinkles" and "UN Murders." Also in photo are contestants Pinky Amador and Jamie Wilson, and show host Eric Quizon.

FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND



A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA

MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG

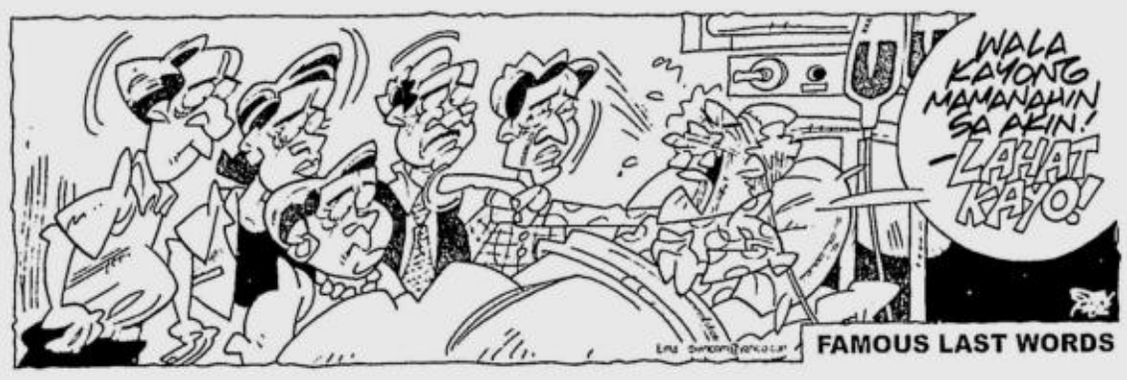
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS



HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have dramatic flair and a thirst for knowledge. You want the answers to the big questions. Because you have excellent analytical abilities, you speak out about whatever you believe in. You can definitely charm others when you want to! In the year ahead, you'll study or learn something important and valuable to you. (You'll enjoy this.)
Birthdate of: Christina Applegate, actress; Amy Grant, singer; Donovan McNabb, quarterback/diabetes advocate.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Anything related to travel, foreign countries, publishing, the media and higher education fascinates you at this time. You want to get out and grab more of the world. Great! Do it.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You feel intense and quite secretive lately. This could be related to financial matters or shared possessions. Sort out loose ends with inheritances and other people's property.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Dear friends and partners need your attention now. They have something they want to show or tell you. Take a break from your multitasking to give them your attention.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Since you have the desire to work hard in order to get better organized, get down to it! Motivation is half the battle. A new health regimen would be good right now.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You're a creative sign. But at this time, you are especially so. Give yourself free rein to create and play at whatever pleases you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Without question, your focus is on home, family and real estate matters now and in the next few weeks. Accomplish as much as you can. Talk to relatives and family members.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You love to shop for beautiful things. However, today is not the ideal day to do so; tomorrow would be perfect! Therefore, just window-shop and hold on to your money till then.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): This is a poor day to make important financial decisions. And it's also a poor day to make major purchases. Wait until tomorrow to do this if you can.

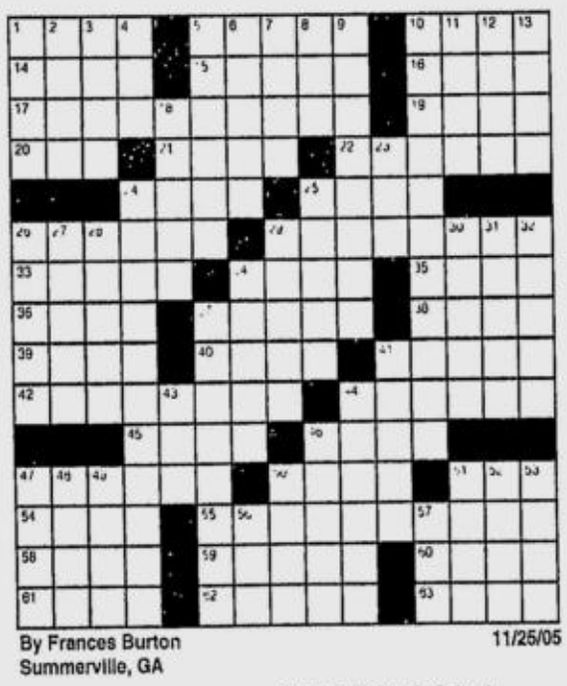
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Although you have a strong need to talk to others just now, avoid important decisions today. Put them off until tomorrow. (This will save you time and hassles.)

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Because you're willing to research things right now, you can successfully deal with big business, the government and large institutions. Keep at this.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Friends can be a great help to you now, especially since many of you are going through rough times with partnerships. It's good to get feedback from others.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): If bosses or VIPs make suggestions today, think twice before you follow them. These decisions could change by tomorrow. (This is a loosey-goosey day.)

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Frances Burton
Summerville, GA

11/25/05

ACROSS
1 Memorization method
5 More than chunky
10 Kermit, e.g.
14 Big galoots
15 Book displays
16 Solitary
17 Left like a mariner?
19 Tied up
20 Cleo's snake
21 Authoritative prohibition
22 Most unrefined
24 Shipping weight
25 For fear that
26 Evil spirits
29 Clandestine
33 Medleys
34 Bowling targets
35 Needle case
36 Ice expanse
37 North Dakota city
38 Milk constituent
39 Notion
40 Words of understanding
41 Pig out
42 Snakes
44 Beaus of the queen bee
45 Draft classification
46 __ of faith
47 Assembled masses
50 Oroville and Fort Peck
51 "__ Framed Roger Rabbit?"
54 Act the pawnbroker
55 Left like a merchant?
58 Feed the kitty
59 Downy duck
60 Nuclear reactor
61 Portal
62 Cubic meter
63 Solemn last word

DOWN
1 Indian prince
2 Artistic work
3 Office fill-in
4 Psychic's claim
5 Commands
6 Moisten a turkey
7 Off-the-wall remark?
8 Snow runner
9 Starbucks offering
10 Left like a chicken?
11 Be nomadic
12 Billfold fillers
13 Gallant guy
18 Linda of "Dynasty"
23 Cigar residue
24 Left like a skier?
25 Quick thrust
26 Day in the movies
27 Slur over
28 Collier
29 Expands one's staff
30 Highway reversal
31 Upswell
32 Pelts
34 Orzo or ziti
37 Subtle moves
41 Get a handle on
43 Wind up
44 Reticent
46 Some time after
47 Dressed
48 Casino city
49 Aware of
50 City slicker
51 Fanciful idea
52 Green target
53 Bet first
56 Perfect-game spoiler
57 Mineral springs

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

S	T	R	E	W	■	N	E	A	R	■	F	E	T	A
A	R	O	M	A	■	A	R	E	A	■	A	G	E	S
R	E	S	U	L	T	S	A	R	F	■	B	O	S	C
A	S	H	■	L	A	S	S	O	■	W	R	I	T	E
■	■	■	S	E	R	A	■	■	A	R	I	S	E	N
W	H	A	T	Y	O	U	E	X	P	E	C	T	E	D
A	U	R	A	E	■	■	M	I	E	N	■	■	■	■
D	E	A	R	■	E	L	O	I	S	■	N	A	N	A
■	■	■	P	S	S	T	■	■	B	E	L	O	W	■
C	O	N	S	E	Q	U	E	N	C	E	S	A	R	E
U	N	I	T	E	S	■	■	E	L	A	T	■	■	■
R	E	C	A	P	■	S	E	T	A	T	■	E	V	E
T	I	E	R	■	W	H	A	T	Y	O	U	G	E	T
I	D	L	E	■	H	O	S	E	■	U	N	G	E	R
S	A	Y	S	■	O	W	E	D	■	T	A	S	S	E

(C)2005 Tribune Media Services, Inc
All rights reserved

11/25/05

MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

Technological innovations

THE LAST TIME WE LOOKED, THE BIG DEAL IN the field of movies on video was over the "colorization" process that transformed heretofore black-and-white oldies but goodies into full-color productions.

That technological gambit turned out to be controversial, because some purists objected to its "defilement" of the "sacrosanct" aesthetics of black-and-white cinematography.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

These days, the big to-do is over a new technological innovation called "ultra-restoration." It's proving to be less controversial than colorization, because it doesn't significantly affect the original, but only seeks to restore it in a particularly striking way, back to its original pristine state.

A key example is the recent "ultra-restoration," of the magical fantasy classic, "The Wizard of Oz." The new process has made possible the elimination of all dirt, scratches and other visual and aural imperfections that, through the 65 years since the film was produced, have made it look like a muggy ghost of its former self.

The ultra-restoration of "Oz" has been so successful that it looks even better than it did when it was first shown. How could this be? Well, the new technology uses computers to "read" even finer details into the original screen images, as well as refining the generally harsh colors of the old technicolor process.

Thus, the new video copy of "Oz" now comes off as more visually sophisticated and detailed. For instance, the details of the Scarecrow's burlap clothing practically jump out of the screen, making the visuals of that character's scenes more dynamic.

Another technological advance has been registered in the DVD field, where the Blue-Ray and HD-DVD processes have emerged as the main systems of choice of major distributors, manufacturers and suppliers.

If no truce is arrived at by these two main options, both would continue to be put in play. This worries the parties involved, who are trying to prevent a repetition of the VHS and Beta standoffs in the '90s, with largely unhappy results.

In any case, it appears like the battle will be won in the area of more efficient connectivity with the Internet. May the more effective-and economical process win!

New sequels

In "X-Men 3," the super group led by Prof. Xavier, a geneticist, finds a "cure" for mutation, spurring the mutant Hank McCoy to try to stop being a mutant.

In "Ice Age 2: The Meltdown," Diego (the saber-toothed tiger), Manny (the woolly mammoth) and Sid (the sloth) unite and warn everyone about post-Ice Age global warming.

In "Garfield 2," Bill Murray voices the orange tabby, while Breckin Mayer plays his owner, Jon.

The blissfully chaotic family headed by Steve Martin and Bonnie Hunt returns in "Cheaper by the Dozen 2." The Baker family goes on vacation and finds itself in competition with a family of eight children, headed by Eugene Levy.

Martin Lawrence reprises his role as FBI agent Malcolm Turner in "Big Momma's House 2." This time around, he's forced to resume the identity of Atlanta matriarch Hattie Mae Pierce, a.k.a. Big Momma.

SEA Games song

Jose Mari Chan and Rene Nieva have written the music and lyrics, respectively, for the theme song of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games, which will be held from Nov. 27 to Dec. 5

The theme song, "We're All Just One," is being interpreted by the Four2Five all-male singing group on a mall tour to promote the games.

During the games' opening ceremonies at Rizal Park, the song will be sung by child singer Julia Abueva, backed up by the San Miguel Master Chorale and Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Ryan Cayabyab.

GREENHILLS CINEMAS
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA
THEATRE MALL GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 1 THE MYTH PG13 10:40, 1:10, 3:40, 6:10, 8:40
CINEMA 2 HARRY POTTER & The GOBLET OF FIRE GP - 11:00, 2:20, 5:40, 9:00
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND EX
PROMENADE GREENHILLS
...a dinetertainment for all!
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 3 PRIME P13 11:20, 2:05, 4:50, 7:35, 10:20
CINEMA 4 The EXORCISM of Emily Rose PG13 - 11:00, 1:45 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
CINEMA 5 HARRY POTTER & The GOBLET OF FIRE GP - 12:00, 3:20, 6:40, 10:00
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.
MUSIC MUSEUM
November 24, 2005 LANCE REYMUNDO 8PM
November 25, 2005 JIMMY BONDOC 8PM
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL : 721-6726 OR 721-0635

Robinsons MOVIEWORLD
CAN BE YOUR CINEMA!
Open for advance screenings, product launches, concerts, school events and other organizational functions. PLUS! Exclusive screenings of blockbuster films.
For interested parties, you may contact Marketing Services Department 687-7945 to 47 • 633-4446 • 636-2894 locals 14/15
THX CERTIFIED CINEMA
CINEMAS See it At its Best!

MTRCB PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
"GET A TICKET, FASTEN YOUR SEAT BELTS AND HANG ON!" PETE HAMMOND, MAXIM
"'FLIGHTPLAN' IS A HEART-STOPPING THRILLER THAT WILL KEEP YOU ON THE EDGE OF YOUR SEAT." PARAMOUNT.COM
At 37,000 Feet Her Daughter Has Disappeared.
JODIE FOSTER
FLIGHTPLAN
IMAGINE Flightplan.movies.com Touchstone Pictures
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures
3RD WEEK!

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION
MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

CHANG CINEPLEX
8th floor Shangrila Plaza EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City
Telephone: 633.2227 / 6337851 loc. 171
1 DOLBY HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLE OF FIRE GP
2 DOLBY EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE PG13
3 DOLBY F FILM FESTIVAL
4 DOLBY PRIME
PREMIERE
DOLBY HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLE OF FIRE GP

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 DOLBY THE MYTH
2 DOLBY FLIGHT PLAN
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 GOLD DOLBY HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
5 GOLD DOLBY PRIME
6 GOLD DOLBY EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
7 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
8 DOLBY APRIL SNOW
9 DOLBY LEGEND OF ZORRO
10 DOLBY MY LITTLE BRIDE

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72
1 DOLBY PRIME
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 DOLBY EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium
Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 GHOST INSIDE
2 DOLBY THE MYTH
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 FOUR BROTHERS
Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall (BINAN) tel. (049) 4111146
1 GHOST INSIDE
2 DOLBY THE MYTH
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 FOUR BROTHERS
Cinema 2000 Cinemagix (Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 DOOM
2 FLIGHT PLAN
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
Cinema 2000 Metrotown (Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 ADVENTURE OF SHARK BOY & LAVA GIRL
2 CORPSE BRIDE
3 DOLBY FLIGHT PLAN
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Planidel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 LAND OF THE DEAD
3 DOLBY FLIGHT PLAN

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 THE MYTH
4 MY LITTLE BRIDE

Blue Wave
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 DOLBY MY LITTLE BRIDE
3 DOLBY THE MYTH
4 DOLBY EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto tel 7334228
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
3 THE MYTH
4 PRIME
5 MY LITTLE BRIDE

MARRIOTT
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 DOOM
3 CRY WOLF
4 RESERVED

stormall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 SHANGHAI LILY
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
5 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 MY LITTLE BRIDE

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 THE MYTH

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 5433994
1 SEX MEDUSA
2 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 THE MYTH
5 DOLBY RESERVED
6 RESERVED

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 ADVENTURE OF SHARK BOY
3 DOLBY GHOST INSIDE
4 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121
1 GHOST INSIDE
2 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

stormall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(LAS PINAS) tel. 8735004
1 DOLBY RESERVED
2

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8409
1 MY SASSY GIRL
2 DOOM
3 DOLBY FLIGHT PLAN
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 DOOM
2 INTO THE BLUE

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 DOLBY MY LITTLE BRIDE
2 BOLD STAR
3 HIGH RISK
4 DTS

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 SYOTA NG BAYAN
3 DTS THE MYTH
4 GHOST INSIDE
5 FOUR BROTHERS

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
2 GHOST INSIDE
3 SHARK BOY & LAVA GIRL
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

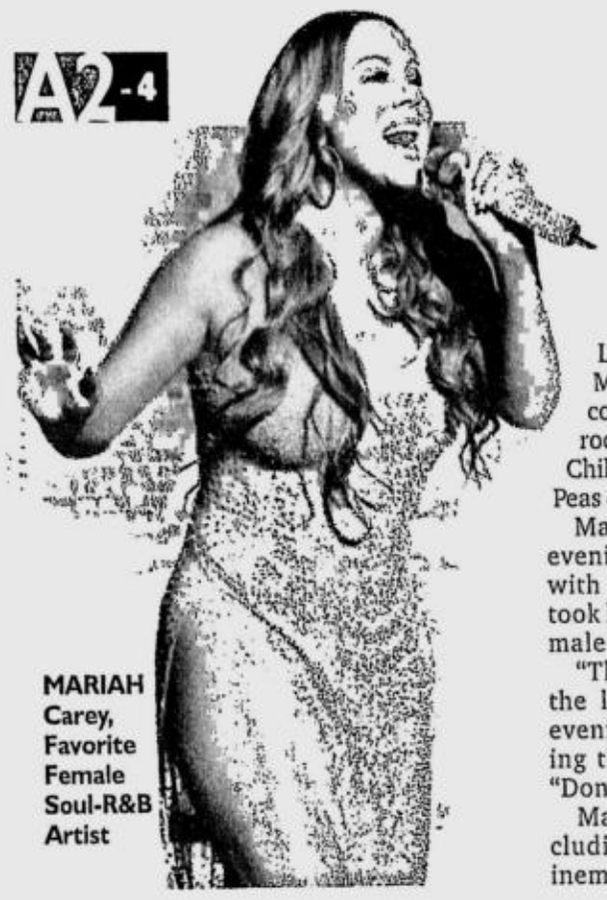
Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 ISPIRITISTA
2 MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

WHO YOU CALLIN' CHICKEN?
Walt Disney Pictures Presents
CHICKEN LITTLE
IN CINEMAS NOVEMBER 30
MTRCB Rating: G
SNEAK PREVIEWS
robinsons movieworld
GALLERIA • ERMITA • METRO EAST • IMUS
NOVALICHES • STA. ROSA • DASMARIÑAS • ANGELES
STARMILLS, PAMPANGA • BACOLOD • ILOILO
NOVEMBER 28 & 29
For SCREENING SCHEDULES, pls. call our CINEMA ACCESS: 635-5555 or visit us: www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

NOW SHOWING
MTRCB R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP.
FROM THE PRODUCERS OF "MONSTER-IN-LAW"
uma thurman
meryl streep bryan greenberg
PRIME
A therapeutic romantic comedy.

Spreading the love around



MARIAH Carey, Favorite Female Soul-R&B Artist

Many big winners at the American Music Awards were no-shows

LOS ANGELES—THE AMERICAN Music Awards spread things around, with country star Tim McGraw, alternative rockers Green Day, soul stars Destiny's Child and hip-hop chart toppers Black Eyed Peas each winning two awards.

Mariah Carey had gone into Tuesday evening's competition the heavy favorite with a leading four nominations, but she took home only one award, for Favorite Female Soul-R&B Artist.

"Thank you so much for the warmth and the love," she said as she accepted the evening's first award moments after opening the show with a rousing rendition of "Don't Forget About Us."

Many of the night's biggest names, including Green Day, Black Eyed Peas, Eminem, Kelly Clarkson and 50 Cent, were nowhere to be seen.

GWEN Stefani: "What did I win?"

Notable moments provided by those who were there included an inspired pairing of Cyndi Lauper and Sarah McLachlan for a soulful version of Lauper's 1980s hit "Time After Time."

The rapper Pharrell, Gwen Stefani and the Eurythmics also took to the stage, and the Rolling Stones closed the show with a two-song performance from Salt Lake City, wrapping up the evening with a spirited rendition of "It's Only Rock&Roll (But I Like It)."

WILL Smith, Favorite Pop-Rock Male Artist

"What did I win?" Stefani asked as she was presented her first American Music Award, for Favorite Female Pop Artist.

McGraw roped in Favorite Country Male Artist and Favorite Country Album for "Live Like You Were Dying."

The Black Eyed Peas earned Favorite Group honors in both the Rap/Hip-Hop and Pop-Rock categories.

Rapper 50 Cent's "The Massacre," won Favorite Rap/Hip-Hop Album honor, while Missy Elliott took home the Favorite Rap/Hip-Hop Female Artist award for the second year in a row.

Actor-singer Will Smith won Favorite Pop-Rock Male Artist; R. Kelly was named Favorite Soul-R&B Male Artist.

Shakira picked up the Favorite Latin Music Artist award. Kelly Rowland accepted the Favorite Soul-R&B Band award for Destiny's Child. "I miss my girls, Beyonce and Michelle," Shakira said.

In a cross-genre category, country group Sugarland bested alternative rockers The Killers and singer Jesse McCartney for Breakthrough New Artist.

In awards presented off-camera, Green Day won Favorite Alternative Artist and the band's "American Idiot," was named Favorite Pop-Rock album.

Eminem was Favorite Rap/Hip-Hop Male Artist; Clarkson, Favorite Adult Contemporary Artist.

Nominees were chosen on the basis of record sales, with winners selected through a survey of about 20,000 listeners.

Comedian Cedric The Entertainer hosted the three-hour ceremony, broadcast live on ABC from the Shrine Auditorium.

AP

GRAND OPENING TODAY!
World Trade Center, Roxas Blvd., 10:00 am - 8:00 pm (bazaar hours)

NOV 25-27, 2005

"the discovery bazaar"

Christmas 2005 shop expo

ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

- ✔ Annual Gift-Giving to GMA Kapuso Foundation Kids together with GMA Artists
- ✔ GMA Artists Celebrity Bazaar
- ✔ Fashion shows
- ✔ Storytelling, face painting, magical moments, mini exhibit and arts & crafts for children ages 1-10
- ✔ Art Day

Event Manager: CUT UNLIMITED, INC.
TEL +63.2.6870654, 6872955
TELEFAX +63.2.6870604
EMAIL cut@pacific.net.ph

PRESENTED IN COOPERATION WITH GMA
FOR THE BENEFIT OF GMA KAPUSO FOUNDATION
BANTAYOG NG MGA BAYANI FOUNDATION
AMA
MEDIA PARTNERS INQUIRER, PHILIPPINE DAILY POST
SUPPORTED BY IMORELLATO, citibank
OFFICIAL BOOTH CONTRACTOR CENTREX

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

THE MYTH PG13 12:15,2:45,5:15,7:45,10:15	HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE GP 1:40,4:50,8:00	HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE GP 2:40,5:50,9:00
PRIME PG13 12:30,2:50,5:10,7:30,9:50	EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE PG13 12:15,2:45,5:15,7:45,10:15	HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE GP 12:30,3:40,6:50,10:00

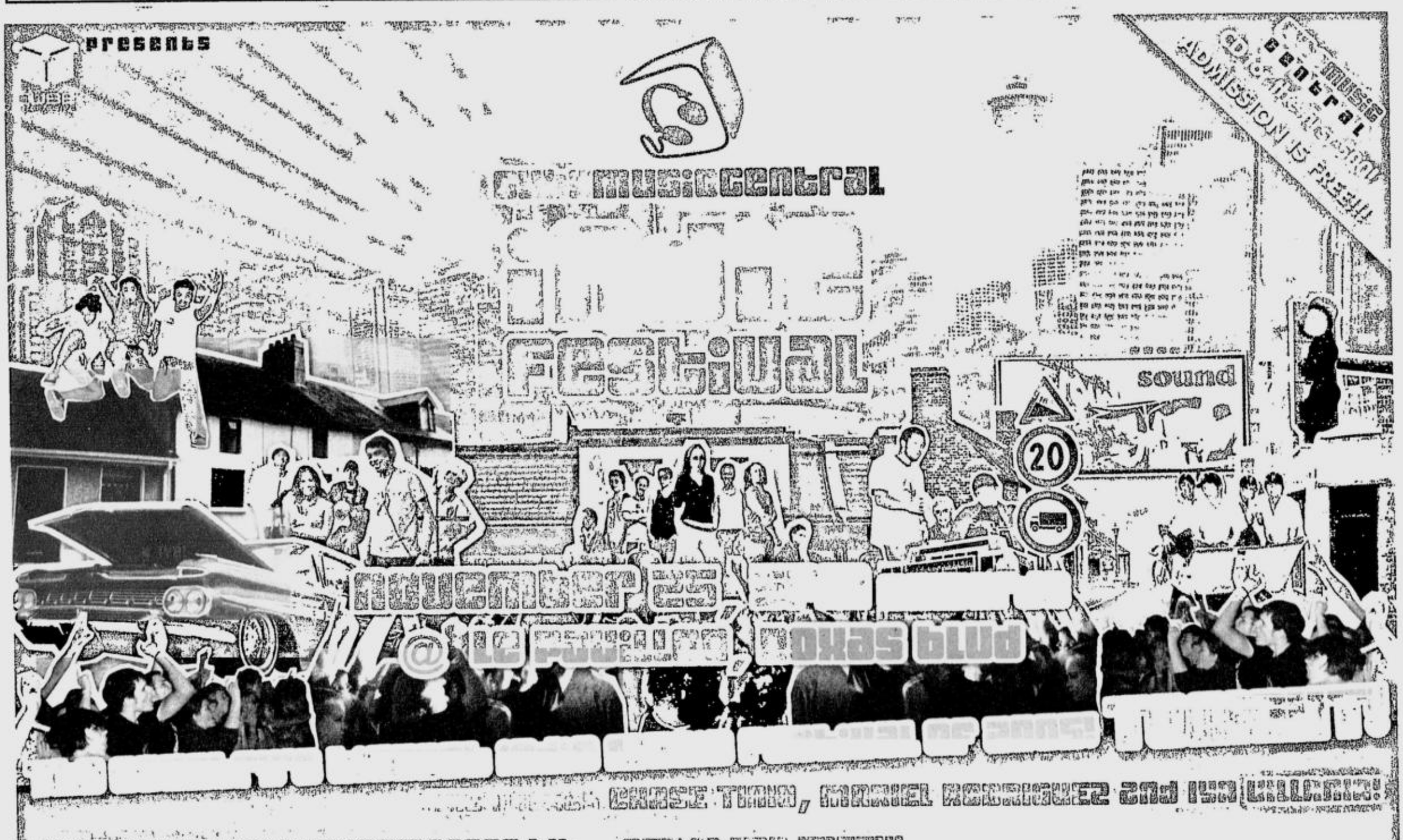
EASTWOOD CINEMAS
Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City
For inquiries, call: 687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1 PRIME
12:45, 2:50, 5:25, 8:00, 10:35
R-13

2 HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE
12:45, 4:10, 7:35, 11:00
GP

3 HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE
12:00, 3:25, 6:50, 10:15
GP

4 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
11:55, 2:45, 5:35, 8:25, 11:00
PG-13



E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

ENTERTAINMENT

Party time in the Big Apple

Photos by Ruben V. Nepales

GEORGE Clooney, right, at the party for "Syriana," with writer and director Stephen Gaghan, center, and a guest

CAST of "The Chronicles of Narnia," from left: William Moseley, Georgie Henley, Anna Popplewell, a guest and Skandar Keynes

ANTHONY Rapp of "Rent" and his partner, Fil-Am actor Rodney To

NEW YORK—LAST WEEKend, all of Hollywood seemed to have packed cold-weather wardrobes and flown all private jets to the East Coast.

Lesser mortals booked first- class seats in commercial airline planes.

New York became party central as several Hollywood studios decided to hold premieres and parties in one single, hectic weekend.

On Thursday, Nov. 17, the festivities began fittingly with the premiere and party for the rousing movie version of "Rent" which, as every "Renthead" knows, is set in New York. The famed Roseland Ballroom was transformed into the musical's gritty East Village in the 1990s, complete with "trash" and flyers (following a worldwide trend, the neighborhood has since been gentrified).

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

We got to meet **Rodney To**, the Filipino-American partner of "Rent" original cast member Anthony Rapp. As we had written earlier, Anthony—who stars in the film version as well—told us about Rodney in our recent interview with him.

World-class

The personable Rodney fondly described Anthony to us as a "world-class mingler" and indeed, the latter was away from the table that was reserved for him most of the time. In fact, we first saw Anthony, who plays documentarist **Mark Cohen**, chatting freely with guests. He promised to introduce us to Rodney but we ended up introducing ourselves to the Fil-Am actor who played the title role in a Chicago production of "The Romance of Magno Rubio" (more about him in Sunday's column).

Rosario Dawson (Mimi in the film) stood out in a red gown. Not far behind was her beloved mom, **Isabelle Dawson**, a statuesque, attractive woman. Rosario told us once that her mother approached director **Robert Rodriguez** at a party. Isabelle asked him to cast her daughter. The result? Rosario's sexy turn in "Sin City." The rest of the cast—hot couple **Taye Diggs** and **Idina Menzel** (who went on to win a Tony for the hit musical "Wicked"), **Jesse L. Martin** (great smiling eyes), **Adam Pascal** and **Wilson Jermaine** Heredia (his "Angel" may never be surpassed)—was there.

On Friday evening, we went up the 65th floor of the Rockefeller Center for a party at the world-class restaurant with world-class views, The Rainbow Room, following the screening of Disney's much-awaited "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe." The movie's cast of outstanding young discoveries had to compete with the spectacular view of Manhattan as it dazzled at night.

But **Anna Popplewell**, 16, who plays Susan in this entertaining (there—that's our verdict, "Narnia" fans everywhere) adaptation of **C.S. Lewis'** masterpiece, had the sense to wear red and was thus easy to spot in a crowd mostly dressed in black. Anna's backless lacy red dress, however, was no match to **Georgie Henley** (Lucy), who makes her screen debut at age 10. This moppet, upon whom much of the film's success hinges (and she triumphs with a winning smile and large expressive eyes) was the evening's dancing-est guest. Georgie obviously loved to dance to the music of the jazz band—she was swung, twirled and dipped by various guests to her delight.

'Old broad'

The boys who play the other Pevensie siblings— **Moseley** (Peter) and **Skandar Keynes** (Edmund)—looked on with bemusement at their little "sister" **Georgie. James McAvoy**, sans his faun legs as Mr. Tumnus, danced on his human feet with Georgie. Watch out, **Dakota Fanning**—in "Narnia," a star is born: **Georgie Henley**. Later that weekend, the terrific actress, **Tilda Swinton**, who plays the White Witch, dropped by during one of our interviews. We had talked to her in London last month; she just wanted to say hello to us.

An interesting sidelight for us was meeting popular entertainment columnist **Liz Smith**, who is in her 80s and is still writing syndicated pieces most days of the week. The self-described "old broad" took the bus with all the rest of us from the screening to the Rockefeller Center. And this long-time New York resident was checking out The Rainbow Room like it was her first time! TV's film critic **David Sheehan** sat with us and chatted about upcoming important films like George Clooney's "Syriana" and **Woody Allen's** "Match Point."

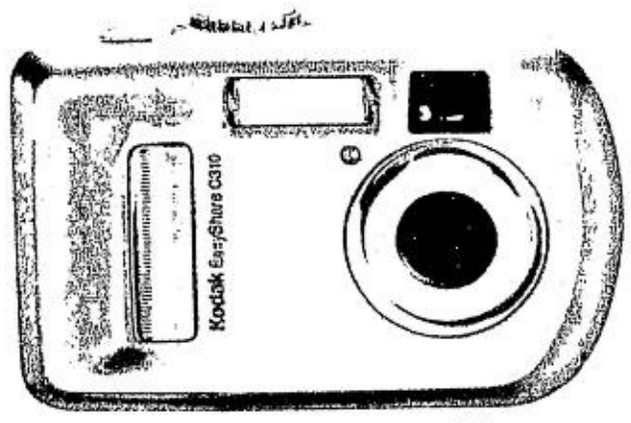
Downstairs, people were gliding in the chilly air on the famous skating rink. A giant Christmas tree was being readied with Swarovski crystal ornaments. It hit us—the holidays are here.

Incidentally, the "Memoirs of a Geisha" cast, most of whom we had already interviewed in LA (our column on this film appeared last Sunday, Nov. 20), was also in town. Director **Rob Marshall** made the extraordinary move to introduce **Gong Li** to us (he made the same gesture in LA, with music giant **John Williams**, who did the film's score) at The

PARTY/ A3-2

DIGITAL MADE AFFORDABLE.

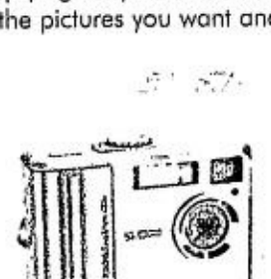
C310
4.0 megapixel camera
only P7,995



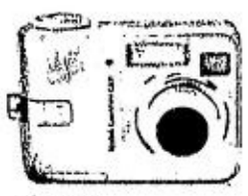
There are no second chances for life's special moments. Capture them with your first digital camera.

The Kodak EasyShare C310 digital camera - 4 megapixels for high-quality prints up to 20" x 30", 5x digital zoom, 1.6" indoor/outdoor color display, continuous QVGA video (320 x 240 at 20 fps) - gives you the best of Kodak digital technology at the most affordable price. So now, take all the pictures you want and view them before you have them printed.

Kodak EasyShare digital camera



C530 *(available soon)*
5 MP for prints up to 20" x 30"
5x digital zoom
Continuous QVGA video
P9,995



C330
4 MP for prints up to 20" x 30"
3x digital zoom; 5x digital zoom
VGA video with audio
P13,995

C340
5 MP for prints up to 20" x 30"
3x optical zoom
VGA video with audio
P15,995

C360
5 MP for prints up to 20" x 30"
3x optical zoom; 5x digital zoom
VGA video with audio
P16,995

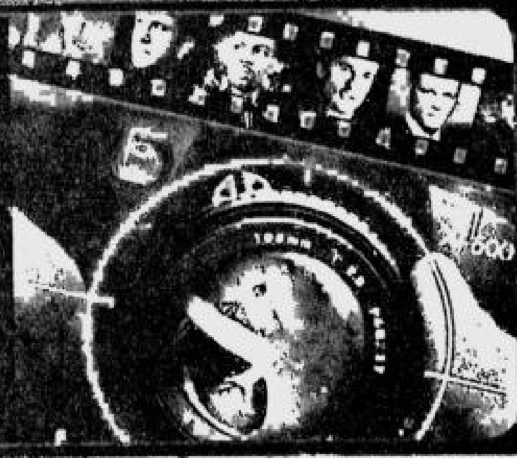
FREE

and Camera Case
for C330, C340, C360 only

Inquire about the 0% interest on 6 months payment scheme in participating stores.

SM CINEMA movietime
CALL NOW* 833-8899
NOW SHOWING
Box Office News Movie Schedules Live Events
SM CINEMA CENTER Stage
FOR INQUIRIES 8311000 loc. 2871,2873,2862,2881

SM movietime EXCLUSIVE
DISTRIBUTED BY PIONEER FILMS
Samuel Jackson Eugene Levy
The MAN
Directed by Les Mayfield
OFFICIAL MEDIA PARTNER
IFM 93.9 97.9
COMING SOON ON NOVEMBER 30
Bacoor, Bicutan, Fairview, Dasmariñas, Las Piñas, Manila, Megamall, Molino, North EDSA, San Lazaro, Sta. Mesa, Sucat, and Valenzuela


SM movietime EXCLUSIVE
PAPARAZZI
ONE GOOD SHOT DESERVES ANOTHER
Meet the successful Bo Laramie, who realized that stardom comes with a price, as four persistent photographers had their dishonest ways just to get his every move.
NOW SHOWING
North EDSA, Megamall, Sta. Mesa, Fairview, Manila, Las Piñas, Bacoor

PREMIERE
movietime SCHEDULE AND EVENTS
Megamall HARI NG SABLAY Nov. 28 • Cinema 3
Megamall ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS Nov. 29 • Cinema 2
Manila JUST LIKE HEAVEN Nov. 28 • Cinema 6
Megamall AN UNFINISHED LIFE Dec. 1 • Cinema 2
LOOK WHO'S WATCHING AT SM NORTH EDSA?
CHICKEN LITTLE

GUARANTEED SEATS

THE PODIUM 633-0976
1 HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE 11:40FS/12:10MF/03:20/06:30 09:10LFS/09:40LMF/12:20END
2 PRIME 11:30FS/11:55MF/02:10 04:00LFS/04:25LMF/06:15END

MEGAMALL
1 HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE 11:00FS/11:30MF/02:40/05:50 08:30LFS/09:00LMF/11:40END

CEBU (032) 231-3876
1 ADONAI MUSICAL PAGEANT
2 THE MYTH 12:00FS/12:18MF/02:36/04:54/07:12 09:12LFS/09:30LMF/11:30END
3 HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE 11:55FS/12:15MF/03:20/06:25 09:05LFS/09:30LMF/12:10END

METRO MANILA

SM MEGAMALL
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
3 THE MYTH
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
5 PRIME
6 FLIGHTPLAN
7 PAPARAZZI
8 APRIL SNOW
9 SOUTHBORDER AT LARGE CONCERT
10 RESERVED
11 MY LITTLE BRIDE
12 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 PAPARAZZI
2 MY LITTLE BRIDE
3 LAND OF THE DEAD
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
5 PRIME
6 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
7 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
8 THE MYTH
9 FLIGHTPLAN
10 LEGEND OF ZORRO
11 ISPIRITISTA
12 APRIL SNOW

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
1 THE MYTH
2 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
3 PRIME
4 APRIL SNOW
5 PAPARAZZI
6 FLIGHTPLAN
7 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
8 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

SM CITY STA. MESA
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
4 PRIME
5 THE MYTH
6 MY LITTLE BRIDE
7 FLIGHTPLAN
8 PAPARAZZI
9 APRIL SNOW
10 LEGEND OF ZORR

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 RESERVED
4 THE MYTH
5 PRIME
6 FLIGHTPLAN
7 PAPARAZZI
8 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
9 LEGEND OF ZORRO
10 APRIL SNOW

SM CITY MANILA
1 THE MYTH
2 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
3 MY LITTLE BRIDE
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
5 LEGEND OF ZORRO
6 PAPARAZZI
7 APRIL SNOW
8 FLIGHTPLAN
9 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
10 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
11 ISPIRITISTA
12 PRIME

SM CITY BICUTAN
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 THE MYTH
3 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
1 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
2 THE MYTH
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

SM CINEMA MAKATI PLAZA
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
3 THE MYTH
4 PRIME
5 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
6 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

SM VALENZUELA NOW OPEN
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 THE MYTH
3 MY LITTLE BRIDE
4 LORD OF WAR

SOUTH BORDER
TONIGHT!
AT LARGE
November 25, 2005 Friday 8:00 pm
SM Megamall Cinema 9
SM CINEMA CENTER Stage
P380 • P280 • P180
551-7777

LUZON

SM CITY PAMPANGA
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 DOMINO
4 ISPIRITISTA
5 HISTORY OF VIOLENCE
6 THE MYTH

SM CITY BACOOR
1 MY LITTLE BRIDE
2 ISPIRITISTA
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
5 THE MYTH
6 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
7 FLIGHTPLAN
8 PAPARAZZI

SM CITY DASMARIÑAS
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 THE MYTH
3 CRY WOLF
4 ADVENTURE OF SHARKBOY & LAVA GIRL

SM CITY BAGUIO
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 THE MYTH
3 FOUR BROTHERS
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

SM CITY LUCENA
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
4 ADVENTURE OF SHARKBOY & LAVA GIRL

SM MOLINO NOW OPEN
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 THE MYTH
4 MY LITTLE BRIDE

SM CITY MARILAO
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 ADVENTURE OF SHARKBOY & LAVA GIRL
3 HISTORY OF VIOLENCE
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

SM CITY BATANGAS
1 ADVENTURE OF SHARKBOY & LAVA GIRL
2 MY SASSY GIRL
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
1 ADONAI MUSICAL PAGEANT
2 THE MYTH
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 FOUR BROTHERS
5 MY LITTLE BRIDE
6 FLIGHTPLAN
7 LEGEND OF ZORRO
8 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

SM CITY ILOILO
1 UNDISCOVERED
2 RESERVED
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 FLIGHTPLAN
5 AB-NORMAL BEAUTY
6 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
7 RESERVED
8 TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE

SM CITY DAVAO
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 WAITING
3 FOUR BROTHERS
4 THE GHOST INSIDE
5 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
6 THE MYTH

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE
3 ADVENTURE OF SHARKBOY & LAVA GIRL
4 DOOM

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE
*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

SHANG CINEPLEX
1 HARRY POTTER 4 MTRCB GP FS 12.15, 3:30, 6:45, 10:00pm LMF
2 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE MTRCB: PG-13 FS 1:30 4:20 7:10, 10:00pm LMF
3 F FILM FESTIVAL
4 PRIME MTRCB R-13 FS 1.40, 4:10, 6.40, 9.10pm LMF
PREMIERE THEATRE HARRY POTTER 4 MTRCB GP FS 11.15, 2.30, 5.45, 9.00pm LMF
Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice. Please call first for SEATS AVAILABILITY
Catch the Cineplex Special
A Blockbuster Gift for All Season
The Shang Cineplex Gift Certificates
Treat your family and friends to a thrilling movie experience only at the Shang.
Cinema Treats-for Cinema 1,2,3,4,
Premiere Rewards-for the Premiere Theatre.
Regular Ticket Price Cinemas 1 to 4 - P150
Premiere Theatre - P295 (includes unlimited popcorn and beverage)
Call 633-7851, loc. 171 or 633-2227 / 633-4735 for more details.

FREE ADMISSION
First come, First served
and SHANG CINEPLEX
THE f FESTIVAL
The Feminist Centennial Filmfest

CINEMA 3
Nov.23 (Wednesday)
Iron Jawed Angels (U.S.A.) by invitation only
Nov.24 (Thursday)
1 pm : Say I Do (Canada/Philippines) & Ynang Bayan (Philippines)
4 pm : Iron Jawed Angels (H.B.O./U.S.A.)
7 pm : A Little Color (Switzerland)
9:30 pm : Phir Milenge (India)
Nov.25 (Friday, Filipino Day)
1 pm : Ang Tanging Ina
4 pm : Minsa'y Isang Gamu-Gamo
7 pm : Bata, Bata, Paano Ka Ginawa?
9:30 pm : Moral
Nov.26 (Saturday)
10:30 am : Symposium
1 pm : She Says: Women In News (U.S.A.)
4 pm : A Little Color (Switzerland)
7 pm : Te Doy Mis Ojos (Spain)
9:30 pm : The Road Home (China)
Nov.27 (Sunday)
1 pm : Dahil mmahal Kita (Philippines)
4 pm : Say I Do (Canada/Philippines) & Ynang Bayan (Philippines)
7 pm : Baran (Iran)
9:30 pm : Iron Jawed Angels (U.S.A./H.B.O.)
Nov.28 (Monday)
1 pm : Everyone Loves Alice (Sweden)
4 pm : Manthan (India)
7 pm : Frida (Mexico)
9:30 pm : Anak (Philippines)
Nov.29 (Tuesday)
1 pm : Tumaini (Tanzania)
4 pm : Baran (Iran)
7 pm : The Road Home (China)
9:30 pm : She Says: Women In News (U.S.A.)
* Tickets will be available two (2) hours before each screening time at the Shang Cineplex ticket booth (Level 6). Strictly one (1) ticket shall be issued per person.
Shangri-La Plaza

FIL-AM actress Cassandra Gava who helped organize the Turkish-theme party for "Lovelorn." Her sister, Karen Gaviola, has directed episodes of "CSI: Miami" and "CSI: New York."

Party time ...

From page A3-1

Waldorf Astoria, from where the book's titular character, Sayuri, narrates her memoirs.

Saturday evening found us at a screening of "Lovelorn," Turkey's official entry to this year's Oscar Best Foreign Language film derby (yes, some countries do manage to send entries). Variety's **Ronnie Scheib** was right on when he praised this film as "a magnificently thesped (that's Variety speak for acted), engrossing melodrama about the collateral cost of altruism."

My wife **Janet** and our friend **Mils** imagined that **Sener Sen** must be Turkey's Eddie Garcia—he plays a teacher so devoted that it came with the sacrifice of having no time for his family until he crosses paths with a young singer, played by the radiant, very capable **Melten Cumbul**.

A reception, which Filipina-American actress **Cassandra Gava** helped organize, featured belly dancers and Turkish cuisine. Needles to say, it was fun and um, culturally enriching. Cassandra, whose real last name is Gaviola, has a sister, **Karen Gaviola**, who is a rising TV director and has helmed episodes of "CSI: NY" and "CSI: Miami."

Magnificent

On Sunday, we braved the cold and windy fall evening and walked to that Beaux Arts masterpiece on Fifth Avenue, the NY Public Library, for the premiere party of "Syriana." Two lion statues adorn this landmark so we can say that on this trip, we've seen the lion and the witch and worn the (winter) wardrobe. Again, a jazz band played but this time, their music reverberated in the magnificent halls of this library.

We congratulated **Heath Ledger**, who was one of the first to walk in from the premiere screening, on his and **Michelle Williams'** new baby, **Matilda**. The acclaimed star of the excellent "Brokeback Mountain" and the amusing "Casanova" beamed. Fatherhood becomes Heath, who is not in "Syriana" but came just to watch this fine political thriller written and directed by Oscar-winning "Traffic" scriptwriter, the boyish-looking **Stephen Gaghan**.

For real

While **Matt Damon** cocooned himself upstairs, the film's other star, **George Clooney**, stayed downstairs and talked to the guests. This man is for real—when you talk to him, he converses with you—no dry hello and goodbye or half-hearted chatter. With his slicked back hair and classic good looks, he evokes old Hollywood glamour and most important, very good manners.

That's not to say he is very serious—on the contrary, when a very tall arrangement by the bar that featured lots of white feather garlands toppled down, he smiled and told us, "It was like **Carol Channing** falling down." Carol, we must point out to very young readers, is a singer-actress-comedienne who was often photographed in white feather garlands in her heyday.

With this combination of charm and gallant manners, George Clooney was a warm presence in that cavernous library lobby.

(E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com.)

Araneta Center Leisure Guide...
Great gift ideas at give-away prices!
Everything Christmas HOLIDAY BAZAAR CINEMA LEVEL • NEAR OASIS NOV 19 TO JAN 8
Like no other mall in the world Gateway BESIDE ARANETA COLISEUM

CINEMA SCHEDULES
Gateway CinePlex 10 LEVEL 4, GATEWAY MALL
ONLY P99 ADMISSION
P120 RESERVED SEATS
P140 HARRY POTTER
GLOBE PLATINUM P249 / P299
DOLBY DIGITAL•EX
FOR INQUIRIES, PLEASE CALL TICKETNET AT 911-5555

HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE 12:40 / 1:20 / 2:20 / 3:40 / 4:20 5:20 / 6:40 / 7:20 / 8:20 / 9:40
GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE 3:00 / 6:00 / 9:00
PRIME 1:05 / 3:50 / 6:35 / 9:20
APRIL SNOW 2:00 / 4:20 / 6:40 / 9:00
THE MYTH 1:15 / 4:00 / 6:45 / 9:30
MY LITTLE BRIDE 1:50 / 4:20 / 6:50 / 9:20
EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE 1:30 / 4:10 / 6:50 / 9:30
FLIGHT PLAN 12:50 / 3:00 / 5:10 / 7:20 / 9:30

ALI MALL CINEMAS
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET 12:00 / 2:50 / 5.40 / 8:30
2 THE MYTH 12:20 / 3:05 / 5:50 / 8:35
3 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE 12:10 / 2:50 / 5:30 / 8:10
4 MY LITTLE BRIDE 12:30 / 3:00 / 5:30 / 8:00
5 PRIME 12:25 / 3:10 / 5:55 / 8:40
DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS
KARYLLE, KYLA & AIZA - AYUZI CONCERT November 25, Friday 8pm
PETER & GORDON - WORLD REUNION TOUR December 1, Thursday 8:30 pm

CENTER EVENTS
Absolutely Christmas HOLIDAY BAZAAR
The Season's best buys at bargain prices! November 11 to January 6 Ali Mall Exchange, Ground Floor Ali Mall

LOG ON TO www.aranetacenter.net FOR MORE DETAILS OR TO SUBSCRIBE TO OUR WEEKLY E-MAIL ENTERTAINMENT UPDATES

SHOW TIME

Sheryn's birthday concert

By Jocelyn Valle
Contributor

STAR RECORDS HAS terminated an employee who brought Sheryn Regis to the recording company last year and served as the singer's personal manager.

Until now, Sheryn is fulfilling engagements that Heinz Ngo had scheduled on her behalf, the singer told INQUIRER Entertainment.

Henceforth, she said, she should be booked for shows only through Star Records Artist Management (Stram).

Sheryn has been an exclusive Stram talent since July 2004, six months after she won second place in Channel 2's talent search, "Star in a Million."

Trust

Sheryn said Ngo never showed her a contract for any booking, and that she usually performed without knowing if she'd be paid. That was how much she trusted him, she said. "But we discovered that he had done the same thing to other newcomers."

Annabelle Regalado, Star Records' managing director who also heads Stram, said the company was working out an out-of-court settlement with Ngo.

Tomorrow, Sheryn celebrates her 25th birthday with a free concert at the SM Megamall Cinema 10. She will sing two numbers with her 2-year-old daughter, Sweetie."

Tonight

Skrotum at Djaka Bar, Tomas Morato, QC; 7 p.m.

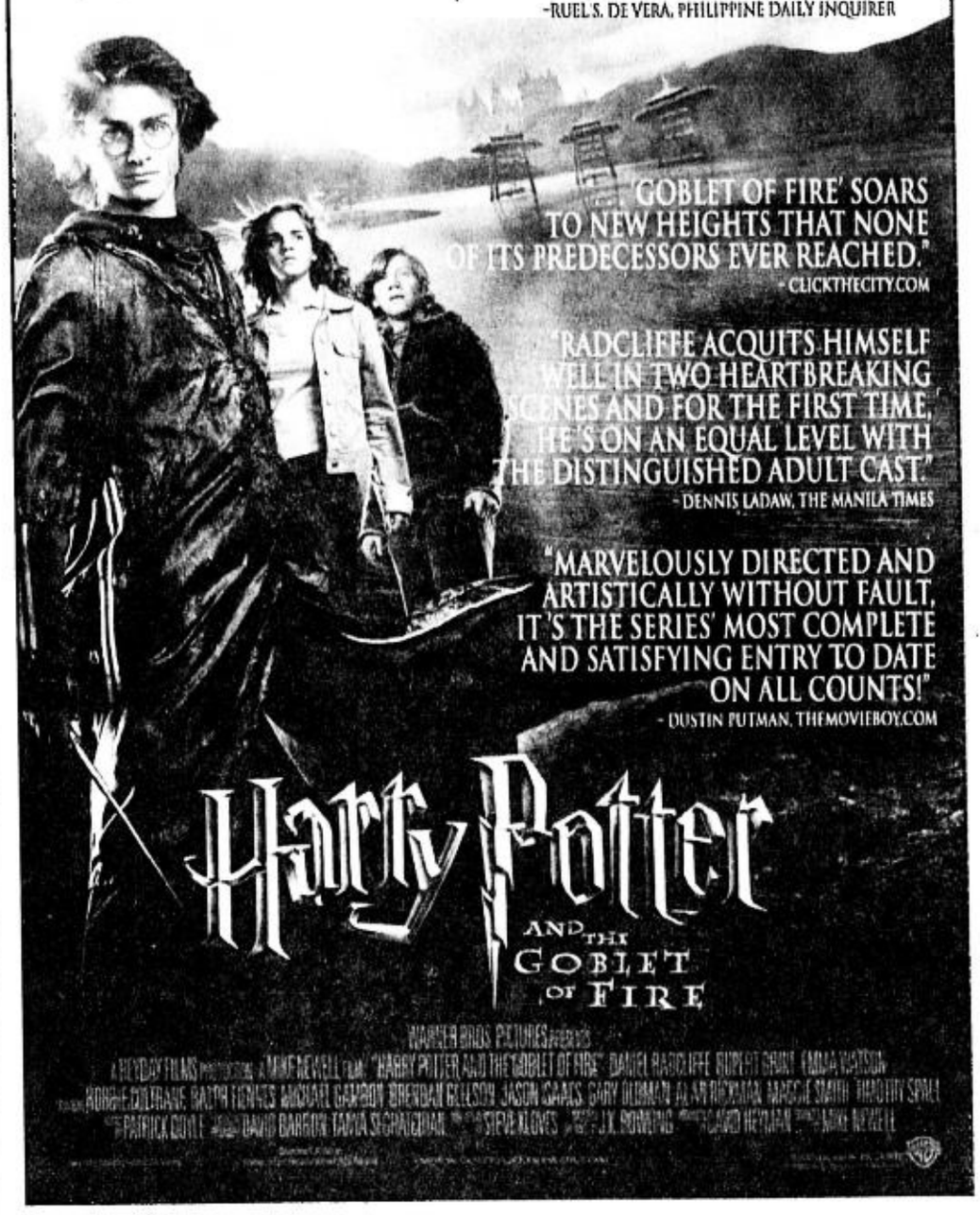
Jon Santos and **John Lapus** in "Ang Ganda!" at **Zirkoh Club**, Tomas Morato

South Border at SM Megamall Cinema 9

MTRCB RATING G | ALL AGES ARE ADMITTED
THE MAGAZINE PROCLAIMS 'CHICKEN LITTLE'
"ONE OF THE FUNNIEST AND MOST EXHILARATING MOVIES IN YEARS!"
- RICHARD CORLISS

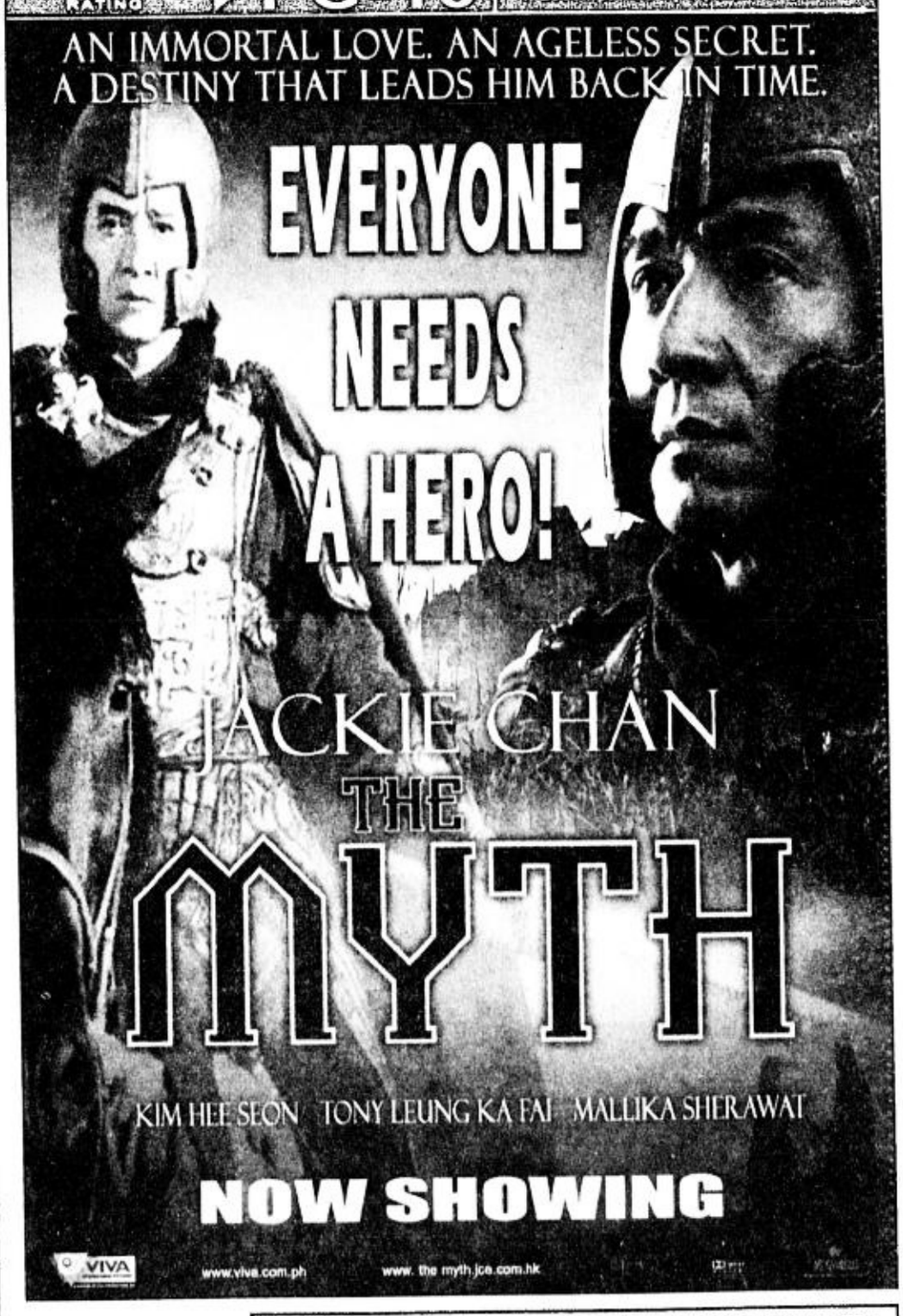
WALT DISNEY PICTURES PRESENTS
CHICKEN LITTLE
ON NOV. 30 WE'LL SEE WHO'S CHICKEN
SOUNDTRACK FEATURES
DISTRIBUTED BY BUENA VISTA INTERNATIONAL
disney.com/chickenlittle
©DISNEY
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

NOW SHOWING
MTRCB RATING G General Audience | ALL AGES ADMITTED
"WICKED, INDEED!"
-RUEL S. DE VERA, PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER



MTRCB RATING PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.
NOW SHOWING
No. 1 Top Grossing Korean Romantic Comedy for 2004
Starring Kim Raewon (Attic Cat) & Moon Geunyoung (Endless Love)

MTRCB RATING PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.



ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

CINEMA ACCESS
635-5555
FOR ALL BRANCHES

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA 632-9118

1 HARRY POTTER 4• THX
1:00 4:10 7:30

2 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
12:30 3:40 6:50 10:00

3 PRIME
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

4 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
12:00 3:10 6:20 9:30

5 THE MYTH
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

6 THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
1:40 4:20 7.00 10.00

7 MY LITTLE BRIDE
12.20 2:40 5.00 7:20 9:40

8 APRIL SNOW
12:50 3:10 5:30 7:50 10:00

9 FLIGHTPLAN
12 30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

10 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
1:25 4:10 6 55 9:40

ERMITA 535-7809 to 12

1 HARRY POTTER and the GOBLET of FIRE 12:00 3:20 6:40 10:00

2 MY LITTLE BRIDE
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 9:50

3 APRIL SNOW
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

4 FLIGHTPLAN
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00

5 THE MYTH
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

6 THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
12 30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

7 PRIME
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10.00

METRO EAST 682-8198 / 682-8199

1 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
1:30 4:00 6.30 9:00

2 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
12:10 3:20 6:30 9 40

3 THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
1:00 3:40 6.20 9.00

4 FLIGHTPLAN
12:40 2.45 4 50 6:55 9 00

5 THE MYTH
1:00 3:40 6.20 9 00

6 PRIME
1:20 3:55 6:30 9:05

7 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
12:45 3 55 7:05

8 MY LITTLE BRIDE
1:20 3:55 6:30 9 05

NOVALICHES 435-4241 / 935-228-30

1 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
2 THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
3 THE MYTH
4 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
5 APRIL SNOW
6 MY LITTLE BRIDE

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575 PIONEER 687-5378

1 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
2 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE
1 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
2 THE MYTH
3 PRIME
4 THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE

CHECK THIS OUT ▸▸

ROBINSONS CINEMAS
Novaliches
Now oPen!

Cinema 1 HARRY POTTER 4
Cinema 2 THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
Cinema 3 THE MYTH
Cinema 4 HARRY POTTER 4
Cinema 5 APRIL SNOW
Cinema 6 MY LITTLE BRIDE

STA ROSA (049) 837-0807 LIPA (043) 757-3004 (043) 312-5870

1 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
2 THE ADV. of SHARKBOY & LAVAGIRL
3 DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS 2
4 FOUR BROTHERS
5 THE MYTH
1 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
2 THE ADV. of SHARKBOY & LAVAGIRL
3 DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS 2
4 THE 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN

DASMARIÑAS (046) 862-2125 (046) 416-4832 ANGELES (045) 892-2348

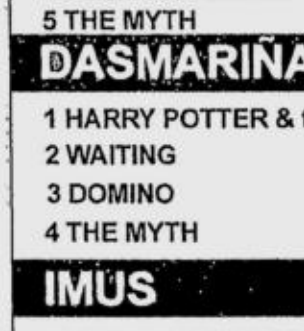
1 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
2 WAITING
3 DOMINO
4 THE MYTH
1 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
2 THE 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
3 ILUSYON
4 THE ADV. OF SHARKBOY & LAVAGIRL

IMUS (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188 STARMILLS (045) 875-1927 (045) 961-8270

1 THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
2 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
3 DOMINO
4 THE MYTH
5 MY LITTLE BRIDE
1 AB-NORMAL; BEAUTY
2 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
3 ILUSYON
4 A HISTORY OF VIOLENCE
5 DOMINO
6 THE MYTH

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453 (034) 441-0459 ILOILO (033) 336-8070

1 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
2 WAITING
3 DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS 2
4 THE CORPSE BRIDE
5 MY SASSY GIRL
6 ILUSYON
1 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
2 THE DESCENT
3 AB-NORMAL BEAUTY
4 THE CORPSE BRIDE



The Perfect Gift All Year Round

A Pre Paid Movie Pass to the Hottest Seats in town.

Get Special discounts for volume purchases!

For marketing and events/reservations please call Marketing Services Department at 687-7945 to 47 locals 14 and 15

AYALA CENTER GLORIETTA • Greenbelt

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

AYALA CENTER CEBU

AYALA MALLS LoveMall!

AYALA MALLS Electronic Gift Certificate

So you won't hear them say you never get them the right size, style or color.

Available at the Discount Plus booth.
Call 752-7324 to 25
www.ayalamalls.com.ph

1 card = 100 stores
The gift card you love to give & get.

AYALA CENTER LoveMall!

At the Activity Center

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	AYALA CENTER CEBU
Ansons Appliances Exhibit November 2 to 16, 2005 MEG Moves Dance Competition November 16 to 17, 2005	AV Surfer October 31 to November 15 Christmas Serenade w/ Afinity Nov.16, 23 & 30	Pinoy Big Brother Mall Tour November 18, 2005 American Idol's CONSTANTINE Live in Concert! November 19, 2005

AYALA GREENBELT

American Idol's CONSTANTINE Live in Concert!
November 16 to 17, 2005 - Greenbelt 3 Park

GREENBELT Onstage AYALA CENTER

REPERTORY PHILIPPINES presents
MAN OF LA MANCHA - The Musical
at REP's GLOBE THEATER
November 11 to December 18, 2005
For inquiries, please call 887-0710

Ayala MUSEUM

Registration for Art Workshops now on-going at Ayala Museum
For inquiries, please call 757-7117 to 21 loc 29.
Online registration at www.ayalamuseum.org

AYALA CINEMAS

AYALA CINEMAS

Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

THX

Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification call 729 7777

G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE	2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE	3 PRIME	4 THE MYTH
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 THE MYTH	2 THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE	3 THX HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 FLIGHTPLAN	5 APRIL SNOW	6 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE	7 PRIME
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 THE MYTH		2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE	
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE GUARANTEED SEATS		2 THX HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE GUARANTEED SEATS	
	3 PRIME GUARANTEED SEATS	4 THE MYTH GUARANTEED SEATS	5 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE		2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE	
	3 THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE	4 PRIME	5 THE MYTH	
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE	2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE	3 THE MYTH	4 FOUR BROTHERS

Although its been said many times, many ways

AYALA CINEMAS

This season, greet them all over again by giving them The Ayala Cinemas' Prepaid Tickets

Get a FREE Prepaid Ticket for every purchase of ten
Available at any Ayala Cinemas' ticketbooths
Alabang Town Center, Glorietta 1, Glorietta 4, Greenbelt 1 & Greenbelt 3!
Promo period: Nov 18 to Dec 25 2005 Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4022 Series of 2005

Customer Service text hotline: 0917 6095900
Customer Service text hotline: Glorietta - 752 7272; from 10am to 8pm
Greenbelt - 757 4853; from 11am to 12mn

Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; from 10am to 8pm
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc 324

All-Digital Cinemas

MARKET! MARKET!

The fun is in the finds

Developed and managed by Ayala Land, Inc

Movies are subject to change without prior notice.
Customer Service Hotline: 886-7515

Free Seating Cinemas: P80.00

1. HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2. HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3. LEGEND OF ZORRO
4. FLIGHTPLAN
5. HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE

EVENTS! EVENTS!

PREPAID CINEMA PASS

Give the gift of entertainment.

Only from MARKET! MARKET!

Where the fun is in the movie finds!

Developed and managed by Ayala Land, Inc

Market! Market! prepaid cinema passes are available at the cinema ticket booth.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2005

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BUSINESS

E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inq7money.net

Editor Raul O. Marcelo
Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

Text us your feedback: inquirer biz name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

WHAT'S INSIDE

Cocktales: Del Monte chatter /B5

FirstGen may increase IPO size /B7

Fitch in no hurry to raise RP rating

Gov't shrugs off rating firm's observations

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE HAS shrugged off the observations of Fitch Ratings that the Philippines still may not be up for a credit rating upgrade.

According to Finance Secretary Margarito Teves, what matters is that the country is getting positive responses from the financial markets.

Teves said that the assessment of credit-rating agencies on a country's fiscal and economic performance may have strong bearing on market decisions. But the country's actual fiscal performance, as perceived by market players, will be the deciding factor at the end of the day.

"Ratings are still relevant, but not all investors are totally reliant on credit ratings," said Finance Secretary Margarito "Gary" Teves at the sidelines of the Federation of Asean Economic Association's annual meeting held yesterday. "It's like doing your job. You should not worry about what others might say, but only about getting your job done."

An official from Fitch Ratings commented that it was still premature to expect for an improvement in the outlook on the Philippines or in its credit ratings. *(See related story on this page).*

Finance Undersecretary Gil Beltran said that a country's effort to achieve a credit rating upgrade should not be a cause for concern, since it is common knowledge that rating agencies tend to react slowly on positive developments.

"It doesn't matter whether they (credit-rating agencies) upgrade us or not," Beltran told

GOV'T/ B4

PESO CONTINUES TO RALLY
A moneychanger counts peso and dollar bills in a Manila foreign exchange office. The peso extended a month-long rally to hit its highest level yesterday in over six months. REUTERS

Outlook change to positive seen to be premature

By Doris C. Dumlao

A LONDON-BASED CREDIT rating firm yesterday said it was premature to consider an outlook or ratings upgrade for the Philippines, as weak revenue collection and political uncertainty hung over positive news on the expanded value-added tax.

"Our view now is still a negative, notwithstanding the positive developments ... on the broader fiscal sector," said James McCormack, Fitch Ratings head of Asia Sovereign Ratings. "The numbers are good, but when we look forward, we want to make sure that that will continue."

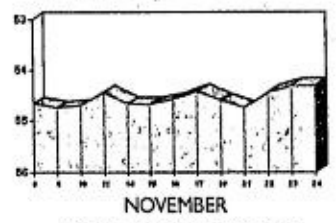
The credit rating firm has a negative outlook on Philippine sovereign ratings. Fitch also gave the country a rating two notches below investment grade.

In an interview at the sidelines of a Philippine Economic Society forum yesterday, McCormack

FITCH/ B4

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



NOVEMBER
PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 54.30 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Nov. 24, 2005

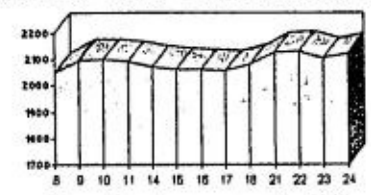
¥ 118.78 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Nov. 24, 2005

GOLD: $492.40-492.90

per ounce Hong Kong, Nov. 24, 2005

STOCK MARKET



(See stock market report on Page B7)

Shares rise 0.8 percent

SHARES YESTERDAY ROSE AS investors took advantage of the previous session's decline to accumulate a number of blue chips, led by Globe Telecom.

SHARES/ B4

'05 balance of payments surplus seen hitting $2B

THE PHILIPPINES IS EXPECTING A balance of payments surplus of about $2 billion by the end of the year, exceeding the government's $853-million surplus target.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo yesterday said that despite huge debt payments scheduled for the fourth quarter, the country's BOP position would not be substantially lower than the January-October surplus of $2.32 billion.

"This is because of the continued inflows of remittances from OFWs (overseas Filipino workers) and foreign investments. We expect that in the last two months it (the BOP) will remain strong," Guinigundo said.

The latest 2005 BOP projection represented a sharp turnaround from the deficit of $282 million in 2004.

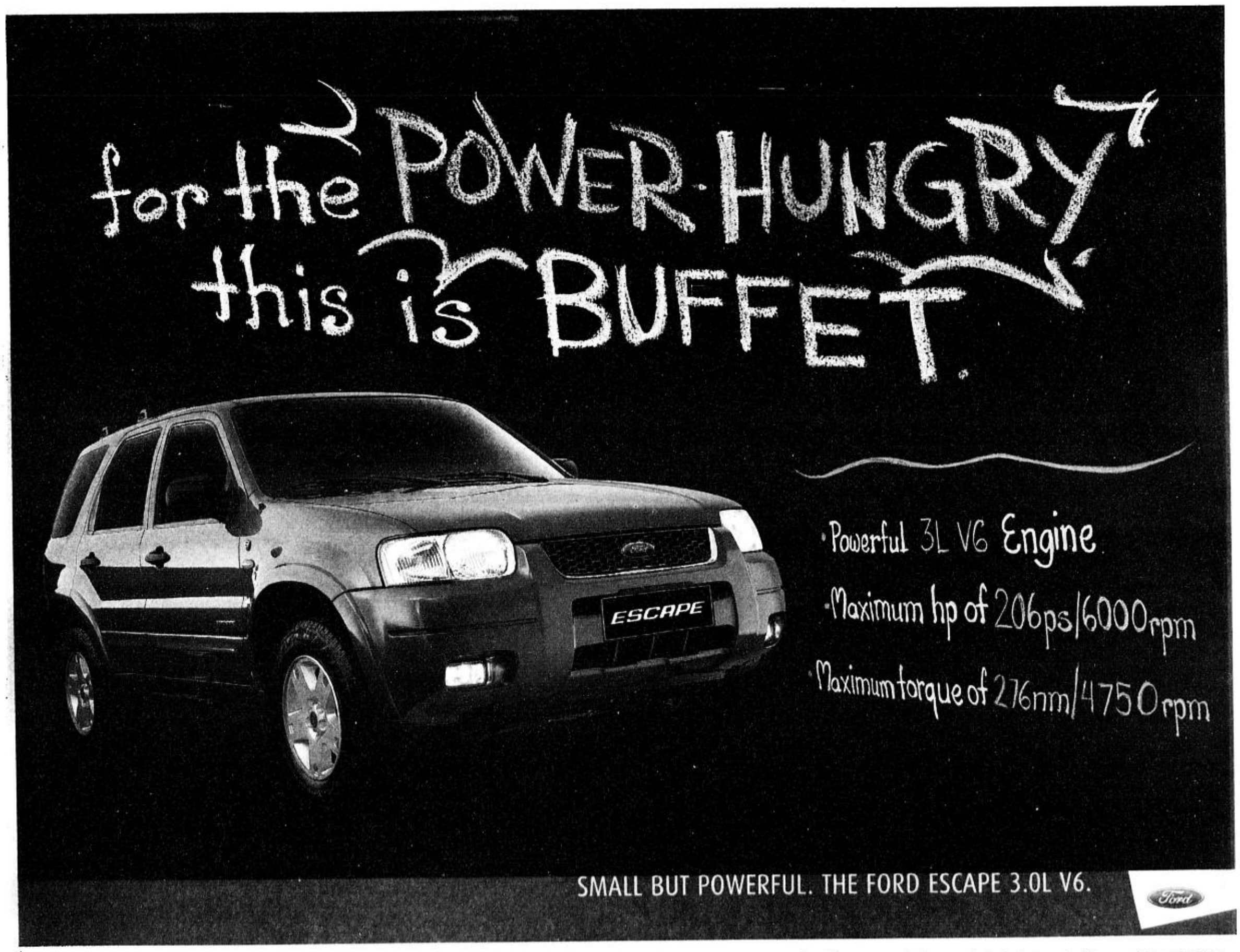
The BSP official also said the BOP would likely revert to a surplus in November after posting a deficit of $406 million in October.

The BOP measures the foreign exchange transactions between the domestic economy and the rest of the world. Its major components are the current account, and the capital and financial account.

The current account records trade in goods and services as well as cash transfers, such as those from migrant workers, while the capital and financial accounts cover foreign investment flows.

Any transaction that requires a payment of foreign exchange from a Philippine resident, like importation, is a

'05 BALANCE/ B4



Opening up of more sectors to foreigners favored

By Ronnel W. Domingo

AN "OVERWHELMING MAJORITY" of business and labor leaders favor the opening up to foreign interest of industries and sectors through changes in the 1987 Constitution, according to the Consultative Constitutional Commission.

The ConCom met with representatives of business and labor groups Wednesday night at the Dusit Hotel Nikko in Makati City, as part of the body's nationwide consultation rounds on how to amend the Constitution.

The consultation involved three separate workshops-with participants of between 21 and 30 each-that tackled issues on economic reform and national patrimony; form of government, and structure of the republic.

After the workshops, the ConCom reported that an overwhelming majority of the participants favored full-foreign ownership of businesses engaged in public utilities, educational institutions, advertising, development of large-scale natural resources, and commercial or industrial land.

However, 19 of the 30 participants in the workshop on economic reforms voted to maintain the ban on foreign ownership of mass media.

Also, 27 voted that the 40-percent cap on foreign ownership of private agricultural land be maintained.

DEE

Regarding the lease of public lands, all but one voted to extend the lease terms for foreigners to from 25 years to 50, renewable for another 50 years.

As for residential lands, 27 voted to keep the 40-percent cap on foreign ownership "subject to limitation on the area of land."

There were 24 leaders who took part in the workshop on the form of government with 11 voting in favor of a switch to the parliamentary form.

One participant abstained, but 12 were "undecided because they lack familiarity with the parliamentary system.

According to Donald G. Dee, a commissioner representing the business sector, those consulted were mainly concerned about checks and balances "so they were inclined to favor" a parliamentary system with a strong president.

As for the structure of the state, 13 participants voted for a unitary system, outvoting eight participants who pushed for a federal system.

The commissioners said major concerns against federalism was that this would divide an already divided nation into separate countries; it would increase the size of the bureaucracy that would be too costly to maintain.

ConCom Chair Jose Abueva said the body had held consultations with various sectors in seven regions in Visayas and Mindanao last October.

"The cumulative votes we gathered indicate that the majority is in favor of the liberalization of the economy and—surprisingly even in Metro Manila-federalism," Abueva said.

Formed late in September upon the order of President Macapagal-Arroyo, the ConCom would continue holding consultations until the end of the month.

In the first half of December, the body would formulate proposals on how to amend the Constitution for submission to the Chief Executive on Dec. 15.

Cebu Pacific, Air Phils cut fuel surcharges

By Clarissa S. Batino

RIVALS CEBU AIR PACIFIC AND AIR PHILIPpines Corp. will cut their fuel surcharges on domestic flights by P50 per one-way trip, just like what Philippine Airlines had done, according to the Civil Aeronautics Board.

The CAB said it had approved the petitions of the two local carriers to reduce their surcharges to reflect the slight drop in jet fuel prices.

The fuel surcharges on one-way flights are as follow: about P350 within Luzon; P470 from Luzon to Visayas and Visayas to Mindanao, and P650 from Luzon to Mindanao.

Foreign carriers, however, were still increasing their fares due to higher fuel cost.

Ailing US carrier Northwest collects a fuel surcharge of $65 for every one-way trip to and from Manila.

KLM Royal Dutch Airlines also raised its fuel surcharge to $40.

Airlines must cut their fuel surcharges every time the price of jet fuel drops or they will be penalized, according to CAB executive director Tomas Manalac.

PAL cut its domestic fuel surcharge by P50 last week.

Manalac said competition would result in further cut in surcharges. In fact, he said fuel-related increases in the prices of airline tickets had been tempered by market forces.

RFM posts ₱68-M profit

RFM CORP. posted a net income of P68 million in the first nine months of the year, up 45 percent from year-ago level.

In a report filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, RFM reported net sales of 4.49 billion for the first three quarters, an increase of 11 percent from P4.06 billion in the same period in 2004.

Operating income reached P246 million in the first nine months, higher by 66 percent from P148 million a year ago, as total operating expenses remained under control at less than last year's level.

RFM president and chief executive officer Jose Concepcion III attributed the sustained recovery of the publicly-listed Concepcion flagship to continuing discipline in operations and consistency in strategy.

"While our sales have basically kept pace with food industry growth, we have

RFM/ B7

UCPB PROPERTY MARKET
CHRISTMAS BONUS AUCTION
DEC.15, 2005 (THURSDAY), 11TH FLOOR, UCPB BLDG., MAKATI AVE., MAKATI CITY
REGISTRATION STARTS AT 8:30 A.M. • AUCTION PROMPTLY STARTS AT 9:30 A.M.
10% DOWNPAYMENT · FIXED 11% INTEREST · 10 YEARS TO PAY

COOL LIVING AT THE FOOT OF MT. MAKILING
PALACIO REAL
Calamba, Laguna
Minimum Bid Price Starts at: P1,440/sqm.

RESIDENTIAL LOTS					
96sqm	P 155,700.00	277sqm	P 473,400.00
150sqm	P 256,500.00	287sqm	P 516,600.00
183sqm	P 263,700.00	334sqm	P 571,500.00
200sqm	P 324,000.00	400sqm	P 612,000.00
245sqm	P 419,400.00	528sqm	P 902,700.00

WHY WAIT TO LIVE BESIDE YOUR GOLF COURSE WHEN OURS IS READY!
MT. MALARAYAT
Lipa City, Batangas
MOUNT MALARAYAT RESIDENTIAL ESTATES

NON-FAIRWAY LOTS		FAIRWAY LOTS	
Minimum Bid Price Starts at: P2,430/sqm.		Minimum Bid Price Starts at: P2,500/sqm.	
695sqm	P 1,689,300.00	1,245sqm	P3,112,500.00
729sqm	P 1,771,200.00	1,301sqm	P3,252,500.00
758sqm	P 1,842,300.00	1,387sqm	P3,467,500.00
787sqm	P1,912,500,00	1,459sqm	P3,647,500.00
870sqm	P 2,114,100.00	1,591sqm	P3,977,500.00

WHY RENT AN OFFICE SPACE WHEN YOU CAN OWN!
for as low as P30,065 per month
ATLANTA CENTER
Annapolis, Greenhills, San Juan
BRAND NEW UNITS READY FOR OCCUPANCY

OFFICE UNITS with Parking			
89sqm	P 2,514,600.00	150.31sqm	P 4,230,900.00
101.67sqm	P 2,726,100.00	181.19sqm	P 5,583,600.00
113.92sqm	P 3,349,800.00	265.95sqm	P 9,183,600.00
124.29sqm	P 3,661,200.00	466.28sqm	P 15,832,800.00

For scheduled unit viewing please call LIZ 0917-545-7357

WHY RENT A CONDO UNIT WHEN YOU CAN OWN!
Minimum Bid Price Starts at: P24,984.15/sqm. · Minimum Bid Price Starts at: P16,007/sqm.
PALM TOWER
San Antonio Village, Makati City
READY FOR OCCUPANCY

RESIDENTIAL UNIT		COMMERCIAL UNIT	
36.36sqm	P 908,424.00	16.16sqm	P 322,718.40
36.54sqm	P 1,161,111.72	21.00sqm	P 447,468.00
37.38sqm	P 1,085,452.80	22.25sqm	P 569,600.00
57.90sqm	P 1,850,253.24	26.85sqm	P 687,360.00
63.77sqm	P 1,862,084.00	32.56sqm	P 521,216.00
65.00sqm	P 1,988,363.20	49.94sqm	P 843,763.20
67.23sqm	P 1,759,209.60	56.97sqm	P 1,151,308.80
73.61sqm	P 1,854,972.00	58.10sqm	P 1,412,992.00
75.39sqm	P 2,277,840.65		
98.43sqm	P 2,841,452.00		

COOL AND GREEN ANTIPOLO PROPERTIES
COTTONWOODS HIEGHTS
Antipolo, Rizal
Minimum Bid Price Starts at: P3,040/sqm.

RESIDENTIAL LOTS	
217sqm	P 659,680.00
242sqm	P 735,680.00
243sqm	P 738,720.00
304sqm	P 924,160.00
345sqm	P 1,048,800.00
359sqm	P 1,091,360.00
413sqm	P 1,225,520.00
459sqm	P 1,395,360.00

HILLS OF MAIA ALTA
Antipolo City
Minimum Bid Price Starts at: P2,800/sqm.

RESIDENTIAL LOTS	
173sqm	P 484,400.00
177sqm	P 495,600.00
178sqm	P 498,400.00
195sqm	P 546,000.00
201sqm	P 562,800.00
254sqm	P 711,200.00
260sqm	P 728,000.00
313sqm	P 876,400.00
326sqm	P 912,800.00
357sqm	P 999,600.00

TOWN AND COUNTRY
Dasmariñas, Cavite
Minimum Bid Price Starts at: P2,160 - 2,250 per sqm.

RESIDENTIAL LOTS	
170sqm	P 367,200.00
190sqm	P 410,400.00
195sqm	P 421,200.00
200sqm	P 432,000.00
270sqm	P 607,500.00
308sqm	P 693,000.00
338sqm	P 760,500.00
436sqm	P 981,000.00
478sqm	P 1,077,750.00
501sqm	P 1,127,250.00

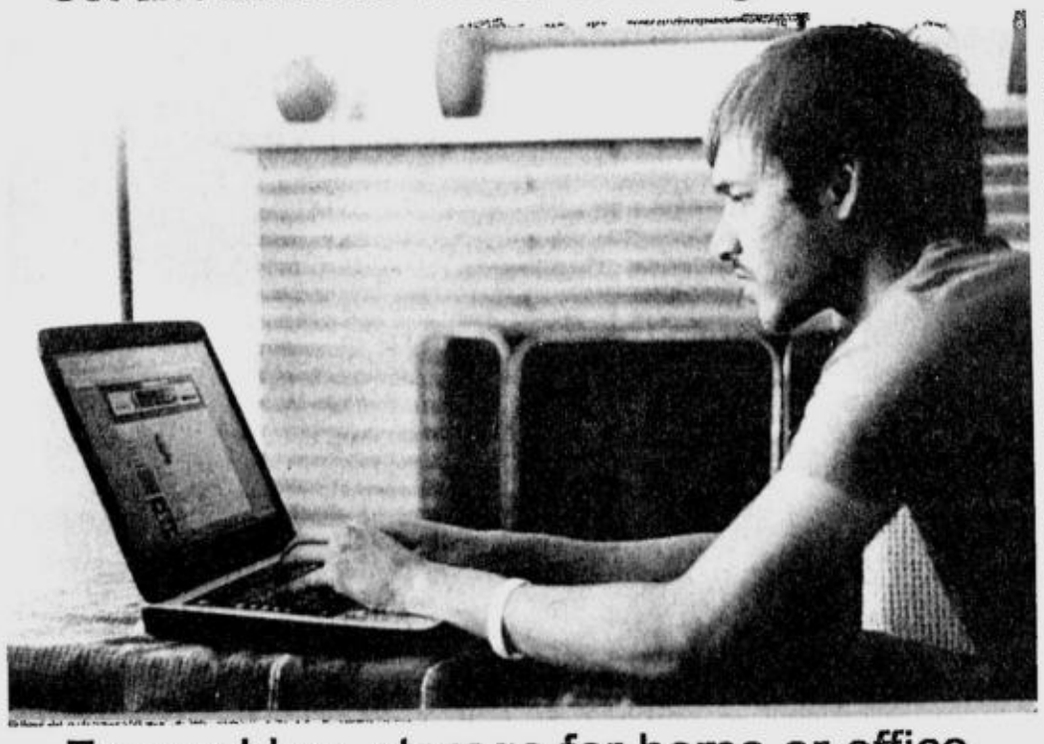
COUNTRY LIVING IN URBAN DAVAO CITY
TIERRA SOLARIEGA SUBDIVISION
Davao City
Minimum Bid Price Starts at: P2,400-2,700 per sqm

RESIDENTIAL LOTS			
185sqm.	P 471,750.00	507sqm	P 1,379,040.00
194sqm	P 494,700.00	515sqm	P 1,400,800.00
405sqm	P 1,032,750.00	669sqm	P 1,756,950.00
420sqm	P 1,071,000.00	653sqm	P 1,776,160.00
453sqm	P 1,155,150.00	730sqm	P 1,881,500.00

SHOW MONEY Php 25,000 CASH/MC PER PROPERTY • ALL PROPERTIES FOR SALE ARE ON AN "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" • PROPERTIES AND PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGES WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE • THE BANK/PROPERTY FORUM RESERVES THE RIGHT AT ANYTIME TO CORRECT ERRORS IN PRICES, TERMS, DETAILS AND STATUS OF THE PROPERTIES IN THE EVENT DISCREPANCIES ARE DISCOVERED.
TELEPHONE NOS.: (02)534-9536 - (02)534-6954 (MON - SUN, 8:00 A.M - 7:00 P.M)
CELLPHONE NO.: (0919)564-9933 24 hours
AUCTION MANAGER THE PROPERTY FORUM
UCPB

KARL EDWARD INTERNATIONAL, INC.
Early Christmas Shoppers
shop @ the fort BAZAAR 2005
NOV. 26-27, 2005
DEC. 3-4, 2005
9:00 AM - 7:00 PM
NBC The NBC Tent
Bonifacio Global City, Taguig
CREDIT CARD ACCEPTED • FULLY AIRCONDITIONED
NOV. 26-27, 2005
9:00 AM - 7:00 PM
Le Pavillon Metropolitan Park
EDSA cor. Roxas Blvd., Pasay City
FREE PARKING • FULLY AIRCONDITIONED
shop @ Le Pavillon bazaar
Interested Participant Pls. call: 372 8453 / 374 3726

Get an Additional 100GB of Storage



Easy add-on storage for home or office.
Instantly expand your storage to hold digital photos, music, and data files. It's simple to install just plug the external drive into an available USB port on your PC. Improve the functionality of your computer with 100GB of storage -- stores over 75,000 brilliant digital photos (JPEG normal), 1,650 hours of digital music (MP3) or 7 hours of DV video.

Personal Storage 3100
100GB External Storage
SRP 5,560.00
Maxtor
What drives you.
AVAILABLE AT:
Provincial Dealers
La Union - PC4 Me [072-8882249]. Baguio - Laser Marketing [074-4470203]
Iloilo - Concept Computer [033-3378476]. Iligan - Iligan Data Vision Sales [063-2213189].
Cebu - MDR Microware Sales [032-2539558]
For more inquiries, please contact 633-4533 to 34, Email maxtor@glee.com.ph Authorized Distributor Glee Electronics Inc.

ROBINSONS

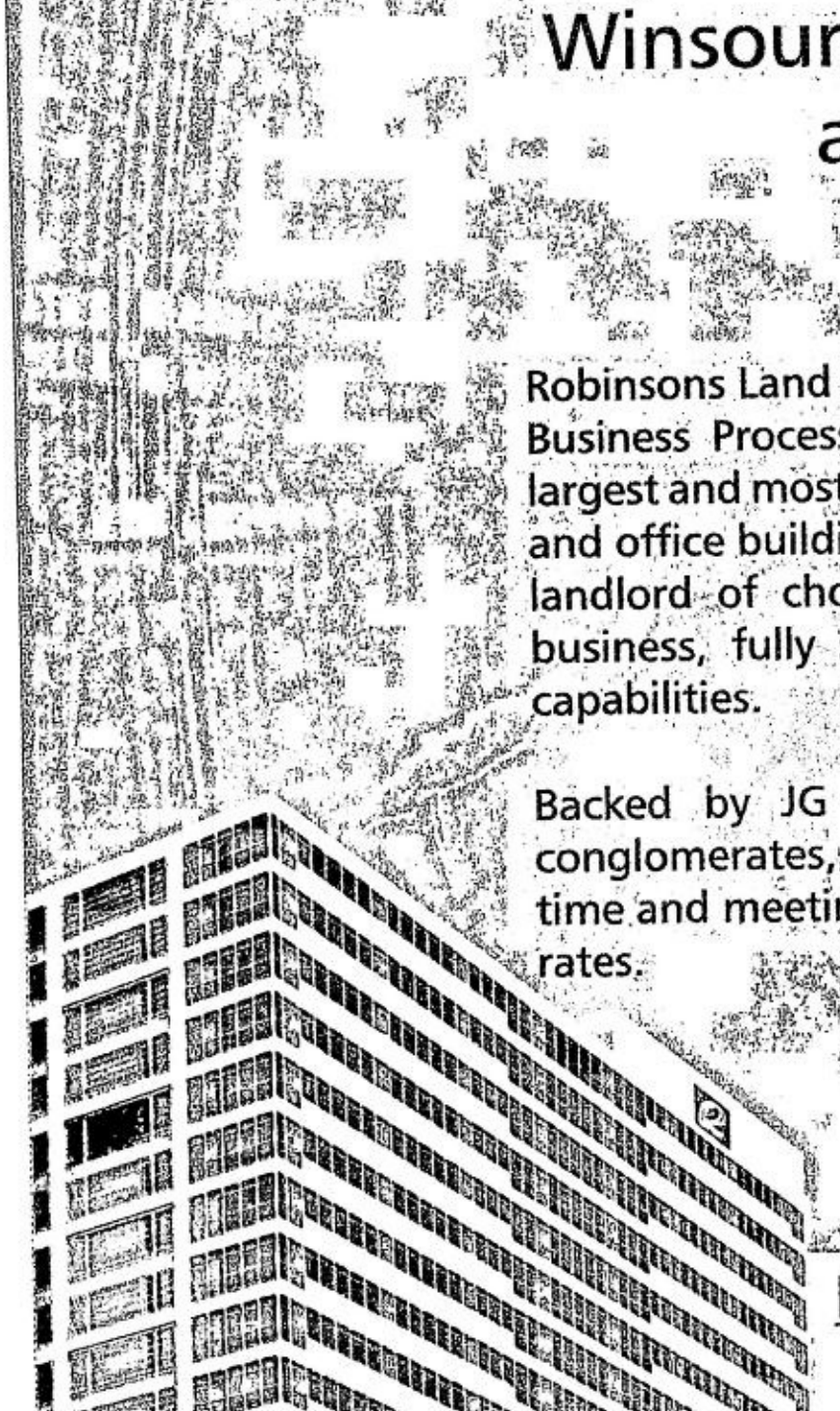
The Landlord of Choice

Partner Companies:

Accenture
Convergys Philippines Services Corp.
Hellocorp Philippines, Inc.
Hewlett-Packard Philippines
Influent Philippines Inc.
PacificHub Corporation
PeopleSupport (Phils.), Inc.
TeleDevelopment Services, Inc.
TeleTech Customer Care Management (Phils.), Inc.
Winsource Solutions (Phils.) Inc.
and many others

Robinsons Land Corporation has the widest selection of sites for Call Centers and Business Process Outsourcing in the Philippines, housing most of the world's largest and most admired outsourcing companies today. With 2 dozen commercial and office buildings plus more opening in 2006, Robinsons Land has become the landlord of choice - helping companies in acquiring their ideal location for business, fully spreading their business risk and enhancing disaster recovery capabilities.

Backed by JG Summit Holdings, one of the Philippines' largest business conglomerates, Robinsons Land has a solid reputation for delivering projects on time and meeting expectations of buyers and locators and providing competitive rates.

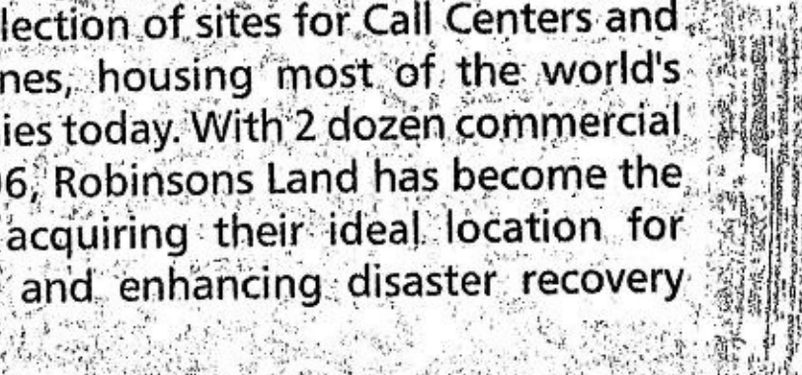


Existing Locations

Makati City
Novaliches, Q.C.
Mandaluyong City
Pasig City
Quezon City
Cainta, Rizal

New Locations

Manila City
Sucat, Parañaque
Lipa City
Cubao, Q.C.
Bacolod City



ROBINSONS PLACE LIPA
(AVAILABLE FOR OCCUPANCY 1ST QTR 2006)

ROBINSONS CYBERGATE CENTER TOWER 2
EDSA COR. PIONEER MANDALUYONG CITY
(AVAILABLE FOR OCCUPANCY 3RD QTR 2006)

ROBINSONS LAND CORPORATION

For further inquiries, please call our Lease Office at 395-2177 • 683-6179
32nd Floor, Robinsons Equitable Tower, ADB corner Poveda Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, Philippines
www.robinsonsproperties.com.ph • Email: cecilia.cadiz@robinsonsland.com or lourdes.alano@robinsonsland.com

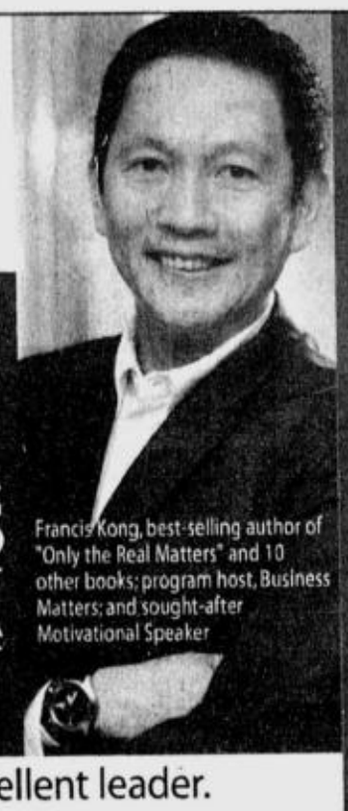
THIS CHRISTMAS, GIVE YOURSELF AND OTHERS
THE GIFT OF LEADERSHIP

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Executive Seminar Series

Proudly Presents

Francis Kong's

6th ACHIEVERS & LEADERS SEMINAR



Francis Kong, best-selling author of "Only the Real Matters" and 10 other books; program host, Business Matters; and sought-after Motivational Speaker

December 6, 2005, 8:30 AM to 5:45 PM
SGV Hall, AIM Conference Center, Makati City

Discover what it takes to be an excellent leader.

6th Achievers & Leaders Seminar

The Power of Ethical Leadership

Draw inspiration. Motivate your team to excel.

ALL-NEW SESSIONS

5 sessions that will change you and your team's lives

- Learn about Authentic Leadership and the 7 qualities of Authentic Leaders.
- Discover what makes a great leader.
- Find out what great leaders and managers can do about unethical leadership.
- Be inspired by true stories of integrity practiced in the workplace.
- Network with the country's best and brightest.

LEARNING INVESTMENT:
Regular: **P7,077 + 10% VAT**
Walk-in: **P7,577 + 10% VAT**
Academe: **P3,500**
Conference fees include seminar participation, materials, lunch, snacks and certificate.

For reservations or to get a copy of the seminar outline,
call Salt & Light Ventures, Inc.
at **830-2191, 813-2732/03** Text us at **0919-314 5412**
and ask for Jenny or Juliet
e-mail us at slvguru@pldtDSL.net

Featuring:

"The Authentic Leader" by Francis Kong. Learn about authentic leadership and the 7 qualities of authentic leaders. Through exercises and thought-provoking sessions, challenge your own core belief systems and see how close you are to becoming or being an Authentic Leader.

"Dealing with Corporate Corruption from the Bottom, Up-Insights and Lessons from 2005 Executive's Attitudes on Corporate Corruption" by Dr Ned Roberto, Chairman & President, Roberto & Associates, Inc. Dr Ned Roberto shares the results of his much-talked about 2005 Corporate Corruption Survey and gives practical advice on what leaders and managers CAN DO about unethical leadership. Dr Ned has consulted and conducted in-house seminars for top companies in the U.S., Europe, and Asia. Dr Ned is also the founder and Chairman of Market Research Solutions, Inc., a new generation market research company.

"The Anatomy of a Leader" by Yoly Ong, Chair, Campaigns and Grey. Yoly Ong's leadership has been key to the success of Campaigns-the advertising agency she founded 19 years ago. Beyond billings, industry awards and HRD survey results, she actually measures success by "how the entire team works together to achieve common goals, then shares in the rewards of work well done." At the 6th ALS, Yoly shares how her insights on what makes a great leader, as well as personal anecdotes on her journey of leadership with integrity.

"Leadership and Integrity" by Alex Castillo, immediate past President, Del Monte, management consultant. Del Monte has been named Employer of the Year under Alex Castillo's leadership. Be inspired by Alex Castillo's stories of integrity and how his consistent practice of this value-in business and his personal life-has been rewarding for him, his company and his family. If you are in a position that often calls for judgement calls, you will find inspiration in Alex's courage and unwavering stand for integrity.

Rave Reviews for the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Achievers and Leaders Seminar:

"We loved it! When is the next one so I can send my entire team?"
- Stephen Misa, Microsoft

"Excellent! Inspiring and very relevant in everyday life."
- Ana Estabillo, Heidelberg Philippines

"Very INSPIRING! Powerful!"
- Ton Magtoto, Prulife UK

"This is one of the best training I have attended. The speakers are great!"
- Emily Honquilada, Glodden ABC Inc. - Penshoppe

Gold Sponsors: BCD•PINPOINT, InfoTech
Silver Sponsor: Lucerne
Official Audio-Visual Systems Provider: Microdata
Official Interactive Agency: AVI
Produced and Organized By: Salt & Light Ventures
Bringing out the BEST in you

Consumers seen to lift July-Sept. GDP growth

THE COUNTRY'S ANNUAL ECONOMIC growth most likely picked up in the third quarter, with strong consumption and gains in the services sector offsetting weak exports, a Reuters poll showed.

But economists said high oil prices and a slow recovery in demand for exports, especially electronics, would limit 2005 growth to 5.0 percent, below the government target of 5.3 percent and less than last year's 5.7 percent.

The median forecast suggested the economy in the third quarter expanded 5.0 percent from a year earlier, picking up from annual growth of 4.8 percent in the second quarter and 4.6 percent in the first quarter.

"We've seen the net export sector make a slightly weaker contribution in Q3," said Mike Moran, regional economist at Standard Chartered Bank in Hong Kong. "But, I think there is good evidence we are seeing strong momentum in the overall consumption sector. If you look at it from an industry perspective, then obviously services will still be one of the bigger drivers for growth."

Third-quarter growth data is due to be released at next Tuesday.

Two economists forecast seasonally adjusted third-quarter growth of 1.4 percent and 1.5 percent, compared with second-quarter growth of 1.4 percent.

The other eight economists did not provide quarterly forecasts.

Economic Planning Secretary Augusto Santos in October said that the economy probably grew between 5.2 percent and 5.7 percent in the third quarter.

The government expects the services sector, which includes telecommunications, call centers, real estate and finance, to carry its first-half annual growth of 6.5 percent into the second half.

Strong remittances from more than 8 million Filipinos working overseas is underpinning consumer spending, despite high prices of oil and other goods and a weak farm sector.

Some economists said the remittances—which support the peso and provide precious dollar reserves to the country—are funding investment in the property sector. This in turn fuels stronger activity in construction and manufacturing.

"There have been significant inflows into the economy," said Bill Belchere, chief economist for Asia at Macquarie Securities in Hong Kong. "Domestic economic consumption and remittances have been very strong."

Last week, the government said the farm sector, which makes up a fifth of GDP, grew 2.08 percent in the third quarter from a year earlier, maintaining the same annual momentum as the second quarter.

Growth for the full year is expected to be 5 percent, the Reuters poll showed, the same as an upgraded forecast by the International Monetary Fund announced on Tuesday.

The country has cut its economic growth forecast for 2006 to 5.7-6.3 percent from 6.3-7.3 percent, with expectations that high oil prices would persist through next year. *Reuters*

Fitch in no hurry . . .

From page B1

said that the implementation of the VAT law this month was "definitely good news," but his firm was in no hurry to lift the "negative" outlook on Philippine sovereign ratings.

"(Fiscal reform) doesn't end with the VAT," McCormack said. "It only begins with the VAT. What we want to hear now from government is, what's next? What are the plans going forward in terms of medium term fiscal plan to increase revenues?"

The VAT law, a below-target budget deficit and record remittances by Filipinos working overseas, have helped push the peso to its highest level in more than six months and made the currency Asia's best performer so far this year.

Spreads have narrowed on the foreign debt of the Philippines, Asia's most active issuer after Japan, and the government has been able to sell its domestic debt at lower interest rates.

These developments, McCormack said, led to a lot of talk in the market "about rating agencies either upgrading or taking those negative outlooks off."

"That is probably a bit premature because the whole EVAT episode made it clear to us that politics can affect the economic policy here," he said.

President Macapagal Arroyo has faced political turmoil since June over allegations of election cheating and corruption.

But McCormack said he was comfortable with the economic indicators, especially the country's external position.

Fitch would soon conduct a review of its Philippines rating, likely in the first quarter of 2006, and was "certainly not going to preclude anything at this point," McCormack said. *With a report from Reuters*

Gov't . . .

From page B1

reporters. "They have not moved, but the market has already given us their verdict. That's the important thing."

Beltran noted that from 390 basis points, when the government launched $1-billion bonds in September, the 10-year Philippine sovereign bonds had tightened to 350 basis points in the first week of November, following the implementation of the VAT Reform Law.

The new VAT law basically expanded the coverage of the tax to include oil and electricity among others, and will raise the VAT rate from 10 to 12 percent in 2006.

With the new VAT law, the DOF expects to generate close to P80 billion in additional revenue a year.

'05 Balance . . .

From page B1

deficit item in the BOP while any transaction that gives rise to a receipt of foreign exchange, like exporting or inward remittance, is a surplus item.

The BOP is closely linked to the country's foreign reserves which, in turn, were boosted by proceeds from the government's foreign borrowings this year.

The GIR—consisting of the BSP's gross foreign currency holdings, gold reserves, special drawing rights from multilateral institutions and foreign investments—is an indicator of the country's ability to service the foreign exchange requirements of the economy. *Doris Dumlao*

Shares . . .

From page B1

The benchmark 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index was up 15.90 points, or 0.8 percent, to 2,119.65, after shedding 1.3 percent Wednesday.

Traders said investors continued to feed on the government's improving fiscal outlook, which was bolstered by National Treasurer Omar Cruz's assessment that the government would likely end the year with a budget deficit of P140 billion ($2.5 billion)—well below the P180 billion ($3.3 billion) ceiling.

"Overall, we're looking OK," said Nestor Aguila, DA Market Securities president. "Investors are still upbeat. The correction yesterday was more of an opportunity to hunt for bargains."

Globe Telecom led the list of index gainers, closing 1.9 percent higher at P795 on foreign buying.

Other gainers included the country's largest oil refiner Petron, up 3.5 percent at P4.40 on strong third-quarter financial performance and growth prospects based on its expanding petrochemical business.

Other stocks that enjoyed strong demand were Ayala Land, up one percent at P9.70, and Jollibee, higher by 2.6 percent at P40.

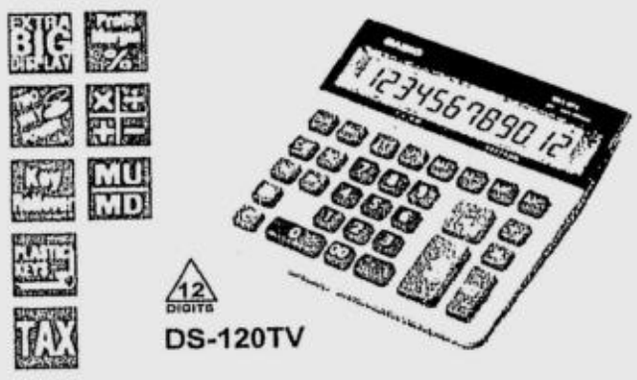
All sectoral indicators advanced. Gainers led decliners 48 to 19, while 54 stocks were unchanged. *AP*

CASIO®
JAPAN technology

The cutting edge of Computing Technology

DS-3V 14 DIGITS
DS-2V 12 DIGITS
DS-1V 10 DIGITS

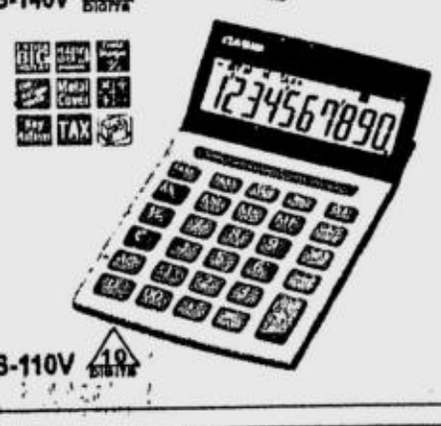
JS-40V 14 DIGITS
JS-20V 12 DIGITS
JS-10V 10 DIGITS



DS-120TV 12 DIGITS

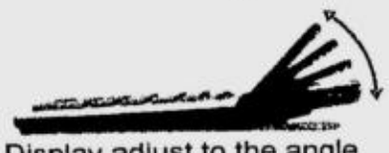
JS-140V 14 DIGITS

JS-120V 12 DIGITS



JS-110V 10 DIGITS

Adjustable Tilt Angle



Display adjust to the angle that's right for you.

FREE Touch Mobile Simpack
Freebies Galore!

For every purchase of any of these selected CASIO Desktop Calculators:
DS-3/2/1V • JS-40/20/10V
DS-120TV • JS-140/120/110V

PROMO IS ALSO GOOD FOR THE FOLLOWING CASIO MODELS:
• Scientific:
FX82ES/FX85ES/FX350ES/FX500ES/FX991ES
FX500ES/FX992S/FX3650P/FX3950P/FX4500PA
FX4800PA/FX7400G
• Printing:
DR140L/HR100TE/HR150TE/DR1212LA/DR120LB
Promo runs from Nov. 15, 2005 up to Dec. 15, 2005
Per DTI-NCR Permit # 6533 Series of 2005

National Book Store
Available at:
NBS METRO MANILA Only

ALABANG • ALI MALL • PODIUM • C RAYMUNDO-PASIG • COASTAL MALL • CYBER ONE MALL EVER ROSARIO • FILINVEST • GLORIETTA • GRAND CENTRAL • GREENBELT • GREENHILLS HARRISON PLAZA • KATIPUNAN • METROPOINT • NORTHRIDGE PLAZA • NEW FARMERS PLAZA QUEZON AVE • RECTO • RIZAL AVE • SHANGRILA PLAZA • ROBINSONS ORTIGAS • ROBINSONS PLACE ERMITA • ROBINSONS PLACE NOVALICHES • SHAW • SM BICUTAN • SM FAIRVIEW SM MANILA • SM MEGAMALL • SM NORTH EDSA • SM SOUTHMALL • SM STA MESA • SM SUCAT SUCAT (JAKA PLAZA) • SUPERBRANCH CUBAO • TUTUBAN • MARKET! MARKET! • PIONEER

For inquiries please call: Business Impact Suite 301-304 AIC Gold Tower F. Ortigas Jr Rd., Ortigas, Pasig City 637-6420 to 22 www.busplusmktg.com

CAUTION
DO NOT PUT YOUR FUTURE AT RISK!
ALL AUTHENTIC CASIO PRODUCTS DISTRIBUTED AND WARRANTED BY BUSINESS PLUS ARE COVERED WITH ONE (1) YEAR WARRANTY AND AFTER SALES SERVICE. IF YOU WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT YOU'RE GETTING THE REAL DEAL, LOOK FOR THE BPM BAR CODE SEAL.

Del Monte chatter

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

THE LORENZONS APPEAR READY to foil Manuel V. Pangilinan's quest to take over Del Monte Pacific, that is, if we are to believe the pro-Lorenzo grapevine.

According to the grapevine, Lorenzo's new partner, Jose "Butch" Campos Jr., has raised more than $200 million in cash to fund a counterbid of the Lorenzos for the control of the Singapore-listed, but Philippine-based, fruit and beverage conglomerate.

Campos raised the war chest apparently not from the family's fabulous coffers, after his father, United Laboratories founder Jose Yao Campos Sr., turned down his proposal to use the family's assets to fund the overseas buyout.

In reaction to this column's description of him on Wednesday as a "Unilab heir," the Unilab grapevine clarified that Butch Campos had completely disengaged from the country's largest pharmaceutical company after he was replaced earlier this year as chair by his elder sister, Joy Campos-Hess.

(Apparently, Unilab did not want to tangle with the well-connected Indonesian principals of First Pacific, considering that Unilab has a substantial and growing presence in the southern neighbor.)

In exchange, the Campos parents bequeathed Southeast Asia Foods Inc.—the food condiments company that makes UFC/Mafran/Jufran/Papa/Heinz catsups as well as Datu Puti vinegar, Mang Tomas lechon sauce and Nelicom *patis* (fish sauce)—to Butch, the second of their three children.

In addition to the condiments concern, Butch was also given Greenfields Development Corp., the family's landholding company that now controls half of The Fort.

According to the investment banking chatter, Butch has secured an arrangement with the Lorenzos to buy out Macondray, the Lorenzos' Del Monte holding company, and eventually fold in Del Monte Pacific with his Southeast Asia Food venture.

But Pangilinan's First Pacific Group, however, was inclined to think that such talk was "posturing," given the short timeframe against the amount of paper work needed by investment banks to line up such leveraged financing.

Even the putative amount raised by Butch Campos, $200 million, is hardly adequate to finance a Del Monte counteroffer.

In contrast, First Pacific said it had set aside $164 million to acquire the 40 percent stake of the ailing Italian food conglomerate Cirio in Del Monte, and another $200 million to fund a general offer for the rest of the minority shareholders, including the Lorenzos' 21-percent stake.

Money-go-round

• THE ALLIANCE of Greenfields Development Corp. and the Ayalas in The Fort has been further deepened after GDC principal Butch Campos hired ex-Ayala Land president Francisco Licuanan III as advisor.

• THE LATE David Choa was one of the founders of Far East Bank and Trust Co. Choa has four sons; the youngest, Tristan, decided he has had enough of the expatriate life, and is set to open the Bikram Yoga studio in Salcedo Village's 88 Corporate Center.

Heard through the grapevine

CEBU PACIFIC is determined to follow Philippine Airlines and launch its own Beijing and Shanghai flights by midyear next year.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

LAND ROVER GO BEYOND™

BEYOND ANYTHING YOU'VE EVER EXPERIENCED

PURCHASE NOW AND ENJOY OLD PRICING. LIMITED SUPPLY.

MAKATI — ENZO Bldg., 399 Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City
Tel. No.: (632) 897-8888
Fax No.: (632) 895-2677
E-mail : sales@landroverphils.com

ORTIGAS — 88 ADB Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel. No. : (632) 633-3975 to 78
Fax No. : (632) 633-3979
E-mail : sales@landroverphils.com

SERVICE CENTER: 3904 Quingua St. (near EDSA/BUENDIA), Makati City * Tel 881-7252 881-7060 Fax: (632) 882-6503 * E-mail: service_ops@landroverphils.com * 24 Hour Helpline: (63) 920-952-4827

3 YEAR or 100,000 KM. VEHICLE WARRANTY provided by Factory Certified SERVICE CENTER.

LAND ROVER

IMI gets $80-M loan for Speedy-Tech deal

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

INTEGRATED MICROELECTRONics Inc. is scouting for more Asian companies to buy, now that it is nearing the completion of its acquisition of Singaporean printed circuit board maker Speedy-Tech Electronics, INQUIRER sources said.

The sources also confirmed that IMI had already reached an agreement for an $80-million loan with KBC Bank, one of the biggest banks in Central Europe and the largest in Belgium, to complete its buyout of Speedy-Tech.

The drawdown of the loan may start in December when IMI pays Speedy-Tech shareholders.

IMI has agreed to buy all of Speedy-Tech's 376.2 million outstanding shares for S$201 million or roughly P6 billion. IMI has P1.5 billion in cash and is poised to tap existing credit facilities for additional funds.

The Ayala-led IMI gained the blessing of shareholders for its merger with Speedy-Tech Electronics Ltd. by the end of the year.

Upon the completion of the merger, Speedy-Tech will become a wholly-owned subsidiary of IMI and its shares will be delisted from the Singapore Stock Exchange.

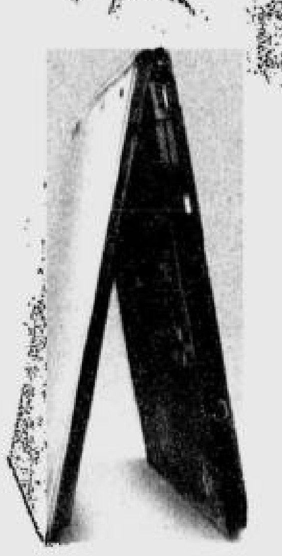
IMI had said the merger was a significant step towards forming a strong mid-sized electronics manufacturing service player in the Asia-Pacific region. It said the move would also allow both companies to bank on each other's strengths in their respective markets and gain access to a broader and more diversified customer base. The increased scale of operations will better position the merged entity to secure larger and more attractive outsourcing contracts from both existing and prospective customers, IMI had said in a statement.

Under the terms of the merger, Speedy-Tech shareholders will receive either 1.3249 IMI shares or approximately 31.7 cents in cash for every one Speedy-Tech share.

"We are delighted that our respective shareholders have shown an alignment of our strategic interests, bringing us closer to the completion of this merger. We look forward to creating a strong global entity that is able to provide customers with a fully-integrated range of solutions for their product development, engineering, and manufacturing needs" Arthur R. Tan, president of IMI had said.

ThinkPad recommends Windows® XP Professional.

intel inside pentium



THINK CHRISTMAS. THINK SALE.
FEATURING THE NEW THINKPAD Z60 TITANIUM
NOVEMBER 25, 26 & 27, 2005, 3RD LEVEL, THE PODIUM
0% FOR 3, 6, & 12 MONTHS ON SELECTED ITEMS

THE WIDESCREEN THINKPAD Z60. The world's first widescreen ThinkPad notebook is also the world's first titanium ThinkPad. Whether you choose titanium or classic black, you get a screen that let's you view 25% more data than a standard 14% VGA screen, security feature you'd expect from ThinkPad and the power of an Intel® Pentium® M Processor (select models). Find out more at www.thinkpad.com/ph/wide

ThinkPad R50e
DISTINCTIVE INNOVATIONS
IBM Rescue and Recovery
SYSTEM FEATURES
Intel® Pentium® M Processor 725 (1.6 Ghz)
Windows® XP Home
256MB DDR, 40GB HDD
CD-RW/DVD Combo Drive
14.1" XGA (1024x768) TFT LCD
Intel Extreme Graphics 2
Centrino Technology with Intel PRO/Wireless 2200BG
One year parts & labor warranty (system battery: one year)
Customer Carry-In Repair
USB Travel Mouse
THINK EXPRESS MODEL
P 68,095 (1834HA4)

ThinkPad R52
DISTINCTIVE INNOVATIONS
IBM Rescue and Recovery & Integrated Fingerprint Reader
SYSTEM FEATURES
Intel® Pentium® M Processor 740 (1.7 Ghz)
Windows® XP Pro
256MB DDR2, 40GB HDD
CD-RW/DVD Combo Drive
15" XGA (1024x768) TFT LCD
Intel Graphics Media Accelerator 900
Centrino Technology with Intel PRO/Wireless 2200BG
Three years parts & labor warranty (system battery: one year)
Customer Carry-In Repair
128MB Memory Key
IBM HDD Shock Absorber
IBM Active Protection System
THINK EXPRESS MODEL
P 85,195 (1860BYA)

ThinkPad Z60m Black
DISTINCTIVE INNOVATIONS
Embedded Security Subsystem
Integrated Fingerprint & 3-in-1 Card Reader
SYSTEM FEATURES
Intel® Pentium® M Processor 740 (1.7 Ghz, 2MB)
Windows® XP Pro
256MB DDR2 SDRAM, 40GB HDD
915 GM Express Chipset
CD-RW/DVD Combo Drive
15" WXGA (1280x800) TFT LCD
Intel Graphics Media Accelerator 900
Integrated IBM Wireless BG
Client Security Solution
One year parts & labor warranty (system battery: one year)
Customer Carry-In Repair
Think Vantage Rescue and Recovery
IBM Active Protection System
THINK EXPRESS MODEL
P 93,595 (2530A11)
*on order basis

Carrying Cases
73P3263
X-Series Hi-Tech Backpack
P 1,895.00
30R4959
Tablet Sleeve Carrying Case
P 1,895.00
73P3587
ThinkPad Carrying Case - Expander
P 2,495.00
73P3590
ThinkPad Carrying Case - Organizer
P 3,995.00
73P3600
ThinkPad Carrying Case - Leather Attache
P 5,595.00
73P5100
ThinkPad Carrying Case - Leather Ultraportable
P 3,495.00

Authorized Distributors: MSI - MSI-Digiland Philippines • Technopaq Incorporated • LAMCO - Lamco International

ThinkPad.

WHEN IT COMES TO THE SUPPLY CHAIN OF MOBILE PHONE COMPANIES, THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS 'CALL WAITING'.

Call DHL Customer Service Hotline at 811 7000 (Manila), 341 7400 (Cebu). DHL Toll-free 1800 1888 0345 or visit our website at www.dhl.com.ph.

No one knows Asia Pacific like we do.

DHL

Convergys expands to Quezon City

EXPANDING ITS PHILIPPINE OPERATIONS, Convergys Corp, the world's largest provider of outsourced customer care services, has just brought an array of new jobs to one of the country's most affluent cities. Convergys, which reported $2.5 billion in revenues for 2004, has strategically built its seventh integrated contact center in the light commercial district of Quezon City.

Located along Commonwealth Avenue, the new Convergys contact center is perhaps the closest to residential areas of all its facilities in the Philippines. Other contact centers in the Philippines have typically been centered in mixed-use economic zones. Convergys chose Commonwealth Avenue to bring the work closer to its employees.

"Convergys prides itself on outthinking and outdoing on behalf of its clients every day. With the opening of this new facility, which is conveniently located for many of our employees, Convergys shows that we are outthinking and outdoing on behalf of our valued workforce, too," said Marife Zamora, vice president and country manager for Convergys' customer management group in the Philippines.

Convergys' new integrated contact center on Commonwealth Avenue can accommodate up to 1,500 agents and is equipped with nearly 600 production stations boasting the latest customer care technologies to serve clients 24/7 in a diverse range of industries. It is also immediately accessible to some 47 residential villages and subdivisions. About 64 percent of the center's current employees are Quezon City residents, some of whom are even within walking distance from their jobs.

Commonwealth Avenue stretches to schools and universities and links the city to Rizal Province, further expanding job prospects for the area. With access to all public transport vehicles from the center, Convergys employees are afforded greater travel convenience.

The Convergys Commonwealth Center is expected to enliven commercial operations along this stretch of Quezon City. The built-to-suit facility already offers several fast-food establishments and other commercial businesses, attracting both clients and prospective Convergys employees to the site.

The Convergys integrated contact center on Commonwealth Avenue offers several amenities for its own employees, such as free parking, pantry area with cable television, vending machines, 24/7 food concessionaire, cyber desk area, staff lounge, choice of fast food establishments and convenience stores, and a banking facility within the building.

Added to the distinction of working for an employer that has been named Fortune's most admired company for five years running, Convergys offers its Philippine-based employees a career path to follow and the same prospects for advancement as their international counterparts. Like other Convergys contact centers globally, management positions are held by the local team.

Convergys operates five other integrated contact center facilities within Metro Manila and one in Cebu City. The company currently counts about 6,000 Filipinos in its workforce.

DENNIS Ross (left), Convergys general manager for offshore operations, is shown with Quezon City Mayor Sonny Belmonte (center) and Sen. Mar Roxas during a press conference at the newly inaugurated Convergys contact center along Commonwealth Avenue.

FEU TEAM BAGS JCI WORLD BUSINESS PLAN COMPETITION

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo lauds 'Xilworks', the team from Far Eastern University, for recently winning the Jaycees International Best Business Plans of the World contest in Vienna, Austria for its 'clean technology' to extract silver from spent x-ray solution. Accompanying the team for a courtesy call in Malacanang recently was Presidential Consultant for Entrepreneurship Jose Ma. Concepcion III (5th from left), who pledged to help the team seek the necessary start-up capital for its business idea. Also shown are (from left): Honesto Adviento, project proponent; Danny Cabulay, dean for the College of Business in FEU; Dr. Elizabeth Melchor, vice president, FEU; JC Leviste, Manila Jaycees director; Xilworks team members Ruth Michelle Ariem, Alexis Lozano, Michael Estorninos and professor Ramon Peter Adviento.

7-Eleven gives out free Disney gifts to students

THIS CHRISTMAS, A RARE YULETIDE treat awaits the best students in different schools courtesy of 7-Eleven Convenience Stores.

From Nov. 25 to Dec. 15, thousands of students will get a chance to be the recipient of delightful Disney Collectibles and special Disney coupons, worth a total of P1 million. These Disney collectibles will be exclusively available only in 7-Eleven stores nationwide.

Availing of this exciting gift from 7-Eleven is simple and easy. Interested schools need only to submit a letter of intent to the nearest 7-Eleven store. Once approved, the Disney collectibles and Disney coupons will be turned over to the school administrator or teacher for distribution to the best students in the class.

Philippine Seven Corp (PSC) ad and promo manager Christine Tolentino said this opportunity "allows us to help teachers reward deserving students this Yuletide season with the Disney collectibles, which are also perfect Christmas gifts." PSC is the country licensee of 7-Eleven, the largest convenience store chain in the Philippines.

For more information, visit the 7-Eleven store in your area.

BE AN EMPOWERED INVESTOR

American Express Bank, one of the world's most respected names in financial services, recently launched the Peso Cash Plus and the Dollar Wealth Plus, which are deposit products that enable customers to access top-performing Unit Investment Trust Funds (UITFs). To step up consumer awareness on UITFs, American Express Bank holds personalized customer orientations and public seminars. Shown during a recent seminar at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel are Patty P. Henson, bank marketing head and Arlene Ocampo, a bank customer. American Express products are supportive of the BSP's directive to convert all Common Trust Funds to UITFs by Oct. 1, 2006.

Servier wins innovation awards

OSTEOPOROSIS IS A MAJOR HEALTH PROBLEM that is seen to increase substantially over the next several decades because of the large increase in the number of persons aged 65 years and older. In the Philippines alone, it is estimated that its incidence will reach alarming proportions by 2025.

Fractures, which affect millions of people worldwide, are the most conspicuous clinical expression of osteoporosis. They occur as a result of the decrease in bone mass. It is well recognized that hip fracture patients have a substantial increase in morbidity. Several studies have shown that daily life activities are reduced in these patients. This reduction can reach as much as 50 percent of the prefracture status one year after the fracture.

Likewise, studies have shown that hip and vertebral fractures have a negative impact on the patients' quality of life. Thus, the desired outcome in osteoporosis treatment and prevention is the reduction in fractures.

3 important awards

Les Laboratoires Servier, a French pharmaceutical company, has been in the forefront of research and development of new drugs in the field of cardiovascular diseases, endocrinology and diabetes, neurosciences, and bone and joint disease. Recently, Servier received three important awards for its new and innovative product in the treatment and prevention of osteoporosis, strontium ranelate: the 2004 Osteoporosis Therapeutics Industry Innovation and Advancement of the Year Award by Frost and Sullivan (USA); Fundamed (Fundacion de Ciencias del Medicamento y Productos Sanitarios) Award for innovation for the best pharmacoeconomic profile in the category of Therapeutic Innovation (Spain); and most recently, in June 2005, the Prix Galien, France's prestigious award for pharmaceutical research.

Strontium ranelate is the first antiosteoporotic agent that addresses the underlying cause of osteoporosis and that is the imbalance in bone formation and bone resorption. Strontium ranelate simultaneously increases bone formation while it decreases bone resorption, thus resulting in new and strong bone. Studies have shown that continuous administration of strontium ranelate for three years resulted in a 41-percent reduction in

vertebral fractures as well as a 36-percent reduction in hip fractures. Likewise, use of strontium ranelate did not result in severe adverse reactions, such as the case in current available drugs for osteoporosis.

Strontium ranelate has been recently approved for marketing in the Philippines for the treatment and prevention of postmenopausal osteoporosis. Servier Philippines Inc markets strontium ranelate. For interested parties, consult your doctor for prescription and details on how to use this product.

Japanese arrivals seen to exceed 400,000 in 2005

THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM (DOT) IS upbeat on surpassing its target of 400,000 Japanese arrivals for the full-year 2005.

DOT Secretary Joseph Ace H. Durano expressed this optimism after receiving a report from Tourism Attache Benito Bengzon Jr that the growth rate of 7.75 percent in Japanese arrivals to the Philippines for January to September 2005 even exceeded the overall Japan outbound rate of 4.95 percent.

Reporting from his base in Tokyo, Bengzon indicated the great significance of the country's tourism performance since Japanese arrivals in Thailand and Singapore were on the decline.

The Philippines was among the only four Southeast Asian countries that posted a positive growth rate in Japanese arrivals in that 9-month period. The other three were Vietnam, Bali (Indonesia), and Malaysia.

Bengzon added, though, that "it remains unclear at this point if Japan will reach its target of 17.4 million outbound travelers this year because of decreasing traffic to China, Korea, and the US mainland."

While projecting Japan's overseas travel bookings to become sluggish for the last quarter of the year, Bengzon said the Philippines "will be able to hold its own and remain strong."

A total of 36,589 Japanese tourists came to the Philippines last September, topping the list of foreign arrivals in that month.

That number, according to the DOT, surpassed the 30,481 arrivals from Korea and the 30,040 from the United States, and helped push the January to September total to 1,907,405 for a 13.1-percent increase over the 1,685,853 posted in the same period last year.

"Based on current trends, the Philippines is likely to surpass its target of 400,000 Japanese visitors this year," Bengzon said.

The DOT's 2005 target is quite conservative in the light of a visible uptrend in Japanese arrivals in recent months, coming on the heels of a highly successful marketing campaign by its Team Japan.

"This is especially so in 2006, the Philippines-Japan Friendship Year, when both countries will have year-round activities to celebrate the occasion," Durano said.

"The activities that will be held in Japan will enable us to directly promote our tourism destinations to the Japanese outbound market, while the events that will be held in the Philippines will bring in Japanese participants and tourists," Durano added.

The Philippines-Japan Friendship Year kicks off with a "showdown" between the friendship drummers of the Yamato Taiko of Japan and the Pasasalamat Drumbeaters of Negros Occidental at the CCP Main Theater on Jan. 11.

Dubbed "Taiko Tambol", this show forms part of Yamato's concert tour in the Philippines, with subsequent performances slated at the Peta Theater Center in Manila on Jan. 12, Riverbanks Shopping Mall in Marikina on Jan. 13, and Ayala Center in Cebu City Jan. 14.

A Yamato concert is not simply a drum performance, but a blending of theater and musical arts, according to artistic director Masa Ogawa.

"We put our very souls into these unusual instruments, whose sounds stir the hearts of people everywhere, and our performances are infused with the idea that the drumbeat, like the heartbeat, is the very pulse of life," Ogawa explains.

Complementing the percussive sound of the Yamato drums are traditional Japanese instruments that include cymbals, gongs, flutes, zithers (*koto*), and lutes (*shamisen*).

PHILIPPINE PORTS AUTHORITY

PORT DISTRICT OF MANILA / NORTHERN LUZON
PDO Manila/Northern Luzon Bldg., 22 Muelle de San Francisco, South Harbor, Manila
Telephone No.: (02) 527-8356 to 83 • Facsimile No.: 527-4414; 527-4704

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Philippine Ports Authority, PDO-Manila/Northern Luzon invites interested bidders to submit Application for Eligibility and subsequently to Bid for the:

A. Name of Project : JANITORIAL SERVICES FOR CY-2006 OF PDO-MANILA / NORTHERN LUZON

B. Scope of Services :
1. Areas Covered
a. PDO Proper
b. PMO South Harbor
c. PMO North Harbor
d. PMO Limay
e. MICT Field Office
f. VTMS Control Center

C. Approved Budget Cost (ABC) : P5,072,886.00
Funding : PPA Corporate Funds

D. Equipment Requirement:
1. 19-units Floor Polisher, 16"
2. 4-units Heavy Vacuum Cleaner

E. Submission of Letter of Intent (LOI) & Issuance of Eligibility/Bidding Forms : Dec. 09 to Dec. 12, 2005
Cost of Eligibility/Bidding Forms : P2,750.00 (VAT inclusive)
Place of Issuance : c/o BAC Secretariat, PDO-Manila / N. Luzon

F. Pre-Bid Conference : Dec. 13, 2005, 9:00 A.M., Conference Room, 3rd Flr., PDO-Manila / Northern Luzon Bldg., South Harbor, Manila

G. Submission of Bids : Dec. 27, 2005 not later than 8:45 A.M. c/o BAC Secretariat, Conference Room 3rd Flr., PDO Manila / N. Luzon Bldg. South Harbor, Manila

H. Opening of Bids : Dec. 27, 2005, 9:00 A.M. Conference Room 3rd Flr., PDO-Manila / Northern Luzon Bldg., South Harbor, Manila

Sealed bids shall be submitted to the BAC for the Procurement of Goods, PDO-Manila / Northern Luzon, South Harbor, Port Area, Manila, which shall be publicly opened in accordance with the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. 9184.

All particulars relative to Eligibility, Bidding, Evaluation of Bids and Award of Contract shall be governed by R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

The Authority reserves the right to reject any and all bids, waive any informality in the proposals received and to accept such bid most advantageous to the Philippine Ports Authority.

Further information may be obtained from the following:

Head, BAC Secretariat : Mr. Alex G. Salcedo
PPA-PDO-Manila / Northern Luzon : Tel. Nos. 527-83-56 loc. 416
PPA Website : www.ppa.com.ph

(Sgd.) **OSCAR S. ORNUM**
BAC Chairman

(PDI–Nov. 25 & Dec. 2, 2005)

UMC holds National Nistec Contest

NISSAN HAS BEEN CELEBRATING ITS Nissan National Technician (Nistec) Contest for the past 16 years since 1989. And today, Nissan will again hold this exciting event at its office in Makati.

Nissan local assemblers and distributor Universal Motors Corp (UMC) is conducting training programs and activities like the Nistec Contest to continuously improve its technicians' diagnostic and repair skills, to enhance their technical competence and to develop highly skilled technicians to better serve their customers, thereby resulting in total customer satisfaction, which in the Nissan lingo means a service technician being able to "fix it right the first time."

The Nistec contest will be participated in by all Nissan dealers nationwide. Technicians from Nissan dealerships nationwide who will win in the elimination (Local Nistec) will participate in the National Nistec Contest. Participants will be given a written examination on technical and product knowledge as well as on Nissan standards. The final day of the event will focus on actual evaluations. Technicians will be assessed in troubleshooting, repair and Nissan standards and procedures applications.

Simultaneously, UMC will be conducting the Nissan Service Adviser Program (NSAP) Contest, which will also be participated in by dealers nationwide. With the same procedure as with the National Nistec, service advisers who will win in the elimination will get to participate in the NSAP Contest. Service advisers will be evaluated in customer relations and complaint handling proficiency and the Nissan Sales and Service Way systemic application.

The participants will be evaluated based on the logical sequence of work based on the service manual, the actual result of work, customer care safety and value-added service.

The top three winners of the 8th Nissan National Technicians and Service Advisers Contest will be awarded cash prizes, medals and trophies. The over-all champion of the event will represent the Philippines in the Asia Area Nistec Contest, and the winner in the Asia Area Contest will represent the region in the Nistec World.

Participants of the Nistec and NSAP Competition composed of technicians and service advisers are: Roberto M. Parada and Joselin R. Remollena from Core Automotive Resources Inc, Jeric R. Paredes or Remando B. Bueno and Jonash O. Suarez from Nissan UN Avenue, Orlando M. Ramos and Cornelio P. Pineda from RMCI-Cabanatuan, Runny L. Morales and Junar Q. Esgurra from RMCI-Pampanga, Roberto N. Gamino and Morris L. Manuel from RMCI-Isabela, Raul R. Lumangaya from Nissan Naga, Rosalio E. Perez from Nissan Family Center Iloilo and Ronnie P. Caballero from Nissan Pangasinan.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Nov. 24, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	1,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	34	34.5	34	34.5	502,200
Bank of the Phil. Islands	59	60	59	59	511,800
China Banking Corp.	615	615	610	615	220
Chinatrust Comm. Bank	20	20	20	20	3,000
Citystate Savings Bank	17.25	17.25	17.25	17.25	400
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.63	0.64	0.63	0.63	430,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	54.5	55.5	54.5	55	385,700
International Exch. Bank	21	21	21	21	3,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	31	32	30.5	31.5	2,386,500
Philippine National Bank	30	30	30	30	30,500
Philippine Trust Co.	50	50	50	50	9,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	7,000
Security Bank Corp.	35.5	35.5	35	35	171,800
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	25	25	25	25	5,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	3100	3100	3100	3100	10
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2080	2105	2080	2105	2,780
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	60,400
Digital Telecom Phils Inc	0.93	0.94	0.93	0.94	500,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	780	795	780	795	179,450
Ipeople Inc	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95	144,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.049	0.05	0.049	0.05	1,200,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.35	994,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1750	1750	1730	1745	134,940
Ivantage Corp.	0.58	0.59	0.58	0.59	80,000
Philweb Corp.	0.015	0.016	0.015	0.016	4,700,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	14.5	15	14.5	15	122,900
Manila Electric Co. B	23.5	23.5	23.25	23.5	284,400
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	4,831,000
Petron Corp.	4.25	4.4	4.25	4.4	4,746,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.96	0.97	0.95	0.96	660,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	60,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	9.4	9.6	9.4	9.6	277,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.68	0.69	0.67	0.67	410,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	10,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3.55	3.75	3.55	3.7	3,861,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.55	3.55	3.5	3.5	22,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	26	26	26	26	9,500
Jollibee Foods Corp.	39.5	40	39.5	40	365,000
Pancake House Inc.	3.55	3.6	3.55	3.6	207,000
RFM Corp.	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	150,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	110,000
San Miguel Corp. A	64	64	63	64	119,500
San Miguel Corp. B	88.5	88.5	86.5	86.5	141,200
Universal Robina Corp.	17.75	17.75	17.75	17.75	2,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.3	0.31	0.3	0.31	1,150,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	11,000,000
Ayala Corp.	345	350	345	347.5	204,210
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.47	0.48	0.47	0.48	150,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.9	4.9	4.85	4.9	38,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.14	2.14	2.14	2.14	100,000
APC Group Inc.	0.235	0.245	0.23	0.245	2,260,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.82	0.82	0.81	0.82	470,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.4	67,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	1,200,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.1	1.1	1,477,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.91	0.91	0.9	0.9	100,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	90,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	2,550,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.25	3.25	3.2	3.25	1,016,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.22	1.26	1.22	1.26	1,114,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	49.5	50.5	49.5	50.5	258,800
Global Equities Inc.	0.0675	0.0675	0.0675	0.0675	2,500,000
Ionics Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	5,000
Jardine Davies Inc.	26	26	26	26	200
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.6	3.7	3.6	3.65	562,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.32	1.34	1.3	1.32	7,420,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	10,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.37	0.37	0.36	0.36	2,010,000
Paxys Inc.	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.2	1,125,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	300,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	200,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.28	1.28	1.28	1.28	6,000
SM Investments Corp.	250	250	249	250	155,830
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.13	0.135	0.13	0.13	3,630,000
Waterfront Phils.Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	150,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Metro Alliance Hldgs B	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	70,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.77	0.77	0.77	0.77	80,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.08	1.1	8,032,000
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	8	8	8	8	1,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.5	1.56	1.5	1.54	1,848,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	1,000,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	13.5	13.75	13.5	13.75	202,700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	200
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.8	26,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	9.7	9.8	9.7	9.7	3,088,000
Cityland Development Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	2,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	1.06	1.14	1.06	1.12	656,000
C&P Homes Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.28	2,690,000
Cebu Prop. Vent B	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	10,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.235	0.235	0.23	0.23	1,100,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	10,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	3,050,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.38	1.38	9,538,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	20,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	300,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	6.2	6.2	6.1	6.2	291,000
SM Development Corp.	1.38	1.4	1.36	1.36	566,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	8.9	9	8.8	8.9	9,708,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.95	0.96	0.95	0.96	260,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc B	0.97	0.97	0.96	0.96	130,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	12,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	5.9	6.2	5.8	6.2	3,044,000
Benguet Corp. A	8.1	8.2	8	8.1	67,000
Benguet Corp. B	34.5	34.5	34	34	1,300
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.5	1.52	1.5	1.52	15,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.215	0.23	0.215	0.22	10,650,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.24	0.26	0.24	0.25	19,440,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	42,500,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.028	128,200,000
Omico Corp.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	5,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	1.2	1.28	1.2	1.28	6,769,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.42	1.54	1.42	1.54	13,458,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	27	27	26.5	26.5	73,800
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.25	0.25	0.24	0.25	570,000
OIL					
Interport Res.	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	2,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.36	0.38	0.36	0.38	80,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	10,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	45,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	10,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.35	0.36	0.35	0.36	210,000

DISCLOSURES

UNIOIL and Resources Holdings Co. Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Dec. 15, 10 a.m., at Club Filipino, Greenhills, San Juan. Stockholders of record as of Oct. 18 will be entitled to notice of and vote at the meeting.

* * *

JARDINE Davies Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Dec. 28, 10 a.m, at Jardine Davies Building, Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City. Stockholders of record as of Nov. 28 are entitled to notice of and vote at the meeting.

* * *

PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange Inc. accepted the resignation of Alicia M. Arroyo as director.

* * *

ROXAS Holdings Inc. brought back 50,000 of its shares at P1.26 a share and another 350,000 shares at 1.28 each. ***Compiled by Chona Galang, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

November 24, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.845952	1.000000	54.3380
Japan	Yen	0.007126	0.008424	0.4577
United Kingdom	Pound	1.458421	1.724000	93.6787
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.109123	0.128994	7.0093
Switzerland	Franc	0.645174	0.762660	41.4414
Canada	Dollar	0.721741	0.853170	46.3596
Singapore	Dollar	0.500149	0.591226	32.1260
Australia	Dollar	0.624319	0.738007	40.1018
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.244440	2.653153	144.1670
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.225582	0.266660	14.4898
Brunei	Dollar	0.498675	0.589484	32.0314
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000085	0.000100	0.0054
Thailand	Baht	0.020568	0.024313	1.3211
UAE	Dirham	0.230322	0.272264	14.7943
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.182100	64.2329
Argentina	Peso	0.287494	0.339847	18.4666
Brazil	Real	0.378892	0.447888	24.3373
Denmark	Kroner	0.134006	0.158408	8.6076
India	Rupee	0.018519	0.021891	1.1895
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.223945	0.264725	14.3846
Mexico	New Peso	0.079777	0.094304	5.1243
New Zealand	Dollar	0.586408	0.693193	37.6667
Norway	Kroner	0.126968	0.150089	8.1555
Pakistan	Rupee	0.014158	0.016736	0.9094
South Africa	Rand	0.129309	0.152856	8.3059
Korea	Won	0.000817	0.000966	0.0525
Sweden	Kroner	0.105211	0.124370	6.7580
Syria	Pound	0.016296	0.019264	1.0468
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025302	0.029909	1.6252
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000394	0.000466	0.0253

'GREENSHOE OPTION'

First Gen may increase IPO size

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

FIRST GENERATION CORP., THE holding company of the Lopez group's power generation assets, may offer additional shares under the "greenshoe option" in its proposed initial public offering of P11 billion worth of shares, industry sources confirmed.

The greenshoe option allows First Gen to offer additional shares equivalent to 15 percent of the final offer size.

This is to address a potential increase in demand for the shares when these are sold through an IPO, possibly by the end of the year.

First Gen is braving an IPO by December to raise P11.22 billion in fresh funds.

If it pushes through this year, First Gen will be the third major IPO after utility firm Manila Water Co. and holding firm SM Investments Corp.

First Gen earlier said it would offer between 151.6 and 219.9 million shares at P51 (for 219.9 million) to P74 (for 151.6 million) a share.

First Gen has tapped UBS Investment Bank and CLSA Limited as its international underwriters, and ATR-Kim Eng Capital Partners and BDO Capital & Investment Corp. for the local issue.

First Gen will use the proceeds to improve its existing facilities, expand capacity and acquire power generation facilities.

Sources said should First Gen push through with its IPO, it would have the financial muscle needed to bid for major power projects to be sold by the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM).

First Gen earlier raised P5 billion from the issuance of fixed rate bonds.

For the six months ending June 30, First Gen reported a 13.2-percent increase in its revenues to P21.8 billion, from P19.26 billion in the same period last year, due to higher electricity sales.

Revenues from power sales also increased by 13.2 percent to P21.75 billion in the six-month period from P19.2 billion the previous year.

First Gen is focused on power generation through subsidiaries and affiliates.

The company is the largest Filipino-owned and controlled independent power producer in the Philippines with an installed capacity of 1,727 megawatts.

The company has stakes in four major operating power generation projects namely the 1,000 megawatt Santa Rita plant in Batangas (60 percent), the 500-MW San Lorenzo plant also in Batangas (60 percent); the 225 MW Bauang plant in La Union (37.3 percent) and the 1.6-MW Agusan mini-hydroelectric plant (100 percent).

First Gen is 88.4-percent owned by First Philippine Holdings.

The balance is held by Asian Infrastructure Development Company FG Power Corp. Ltd. and Sumitomo of Japan.

Investment Funds of Wealth Builder and Wealth Secure	UNIT PRICES (in Php)	
	Nov. 21, 2005	Nov. 14, 2005
Fixed Income Fund	1.074116	1.068490
Balanced Fund	1.069835	1.062333
Equity Fund	1.061147	1.049226

These investment funds are specific to variable life insurance contracts and are not considered mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission.
The weekly unit prices are also available at www.insularlife.com.ph.

PRULINK Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	PRU LIFE U.K. Current Week Nov. 22, 2005	Last Week Nov. 15, 2005
Bond Fund - Peso	1.29967	1.29205
Managed Fund - Peso	1.43071	1.41365
Growth Fund - Peso	1.13180	1.09474
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.1879	1.1692

* Note: These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission

Mini Stop eyes more outlets

ROBINSONS CONvenience Stores Inc., co-owner of the Mini-Stop franchise, sees its network of 24-hour stores growing to at least 215 stores next year as part of its thrust to become the leading convenience store operator in the country.

Business unit group head Johnson Robert Go Jr. said around 103 stores or 76 percent of its current network of 134 stores are run by franchisees.

Go said that next year, Mini Stop will expand its network by 65 to 70 stores, of which between 15 and 20 stores will be company-owned.

Go said franchising was an ideal method for expansion.

"I think directly managing stores puts a lot of pressure on the required capital because you will be spending for the salary of the workers," he said.

Robinsons spends around P3 to P4 million to put up a store.

Mini Stop—the Robinsons Retail Group's joint venture with Japan's Mini-Stop Co. Ltd., and Mitsubishi Corp.—intends to overtake industry leader Philippine Seven Corp., which runs 256 stores as of the third quarter.

Elizabeth L. Sanchez

RFM ...

From page B2

focused on improving gross margins and operating margins in all the major business units of RFM," Concepcion said.

RFM's main business units include the branded food divisions, covering a wide range of milk and juice products in various packaging formats, processed and canned meat products, pasta and other consumer flour-based products; the ice cream business, which is a 50-50 joint venture with Unilever Philippines Inc.; the traditional flour business, which RFM pioneered in the country, and its wholly-owned property development subsidiary, Philippine Townships, Inc.

Concepcion said that even as management continued its focus on lowering cost structures, it had started rolling out new high-volume products for the mass-market.

With the fourth quarter traditionally a strong period for food and beverage products, Concepcion expressed optimism that RFM would complete the year on a high note.

Whether for work or play,
here's the projector for everything....

DLP™ technology by Texas Instrument offers crystal clear images with superior quality.

BenQ PB6110

1500 ANSI Lumens
SVGA (800x600 pixels)
2000 / *3000 lamp hours
2.9 kg.

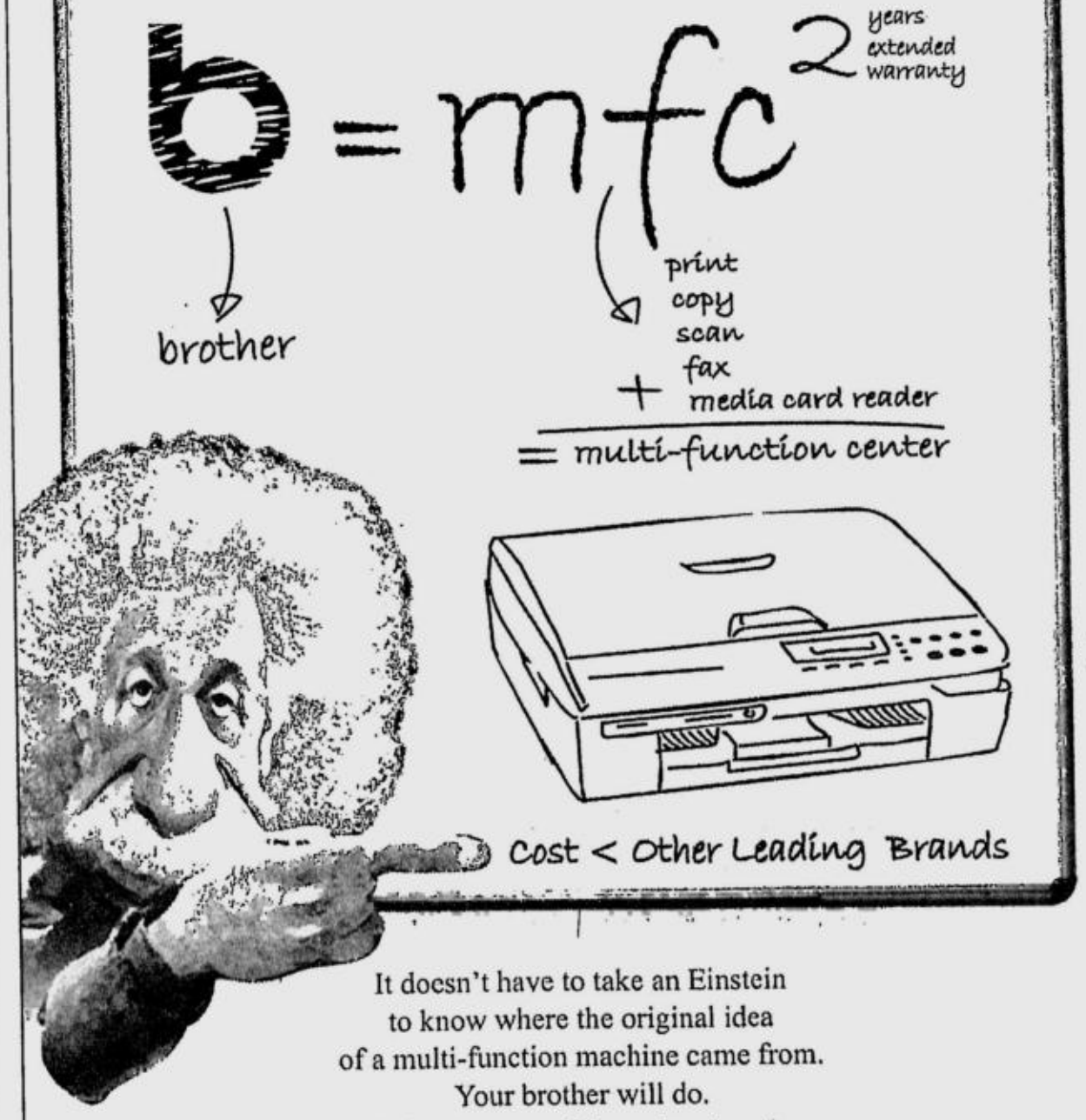
Php 49,888.00

*3000 lamp hours can be reached if you use the economic mode.

ASTECH PENGSON DISTRIBUTORS INC
Manila Head Office: 634-8351 to 59
Cebu (032) 344-1185 * Davao (082) 221-0585

Awards and Recognitions Worldwide:

BenQ Enjoyment Matters



It doesn't have to take an Einstein
to know where the original idea
of a multi-function machine came from.
Your brother will do.
Take it easy. Keep it simple.

At your side.
brother

Brother International Corporation, Japan
Brother International Philippines Corporation
11/F, Chatham House Condominium, VA Rufino (formerly Herrera) cor. Valero Sts., Salcedo Village, Makati City. Hotline: (02)845-1899
Tel. No. (02)845-1978 Fax No. (02)845-1979. Email: sales@brother.com.ph Website: www.brother.com.ph Toll Free: 1-800-10-BROTHER

PAMASKONG HANDOG NG BROTHER
GET FREE
ADDITIONAL CONSUMABLES WHEN YOU PURCHASE SELECTED BROTHER PRODUCTS
Promo Period: November 28 to December 31, 2005
SEE POSTERS AND FLYERS FOR DETAILS
PER DTI-NCR PERMIT # 6871 SERIES OF 2005

Smart sets investment of $60M in 3G system

By Clarissa S. Batino

SMART COMMUNICATIONS INC. will spend about P3.3 billion (roughly $60 million) to upgrade its system and offer third-generation or 3G mobile services.

Smart president Napoleon Nazareno said the investment would be spread out over the next two years.

The country's largest mobile carrier had conducted its first inter-network 3G video call in Mactan, Cebu City yesterday.

The video call in Cebu, conducted during an international telco conference in the Visayan capital, was made between Smart and roaming partner Telecom Italia Mobile.

"This day marks another milestone in Smart's history," Smart head for Network Services Division Rolando Peña said. "The success of this video call is proof of Smart's capability to offer 3G-enabled services and its commitment to always stay a step ahead of the others."

Smart claimed it started conducting 3G tests as early as December 2000.

Nazareno said part of the amount to be spent on the new 3G infrastructure was already included in the planned capital investment of P18 to P20 billion that Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. had earmarked for 2006.

Going into 3G is cheaper for incumbent mobile players with a strong digital wireless network as they only need to upgrade the existing system.

New player AZ Communications Inc., for instance, said it would spend P27 billion over a five-year period for a 3G system.

The National Telecommunications Commission is expected to award five 3G frequencies to qualified carriers early next year.

Third generation or 3G wireless communications technology allows the transmission of data, voice and video at 384 kbps to 2mbps against the current technology's maximum speed of 9.6 kbps.

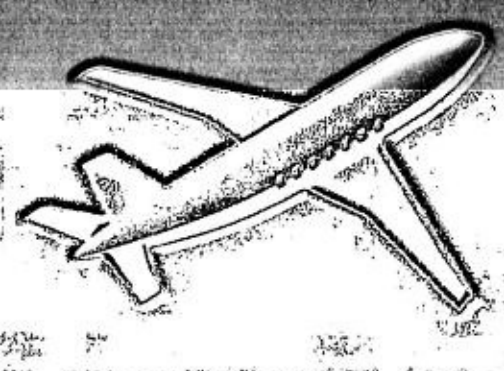
The speed allows easier Internet browsing and faster downloading of huge files.

The first generation refers to the "cellular mobile radio telephone" that used analog voice signaling.

The 1990s, on the other hand, ushered in the second generation featuring the digital voice encoding technology.

NAZARENO

In just a few months,
American Express® Peso Platinum
Cardmembers have:



Converted over 4 million Membership Rewards® points to airmiles.

2X

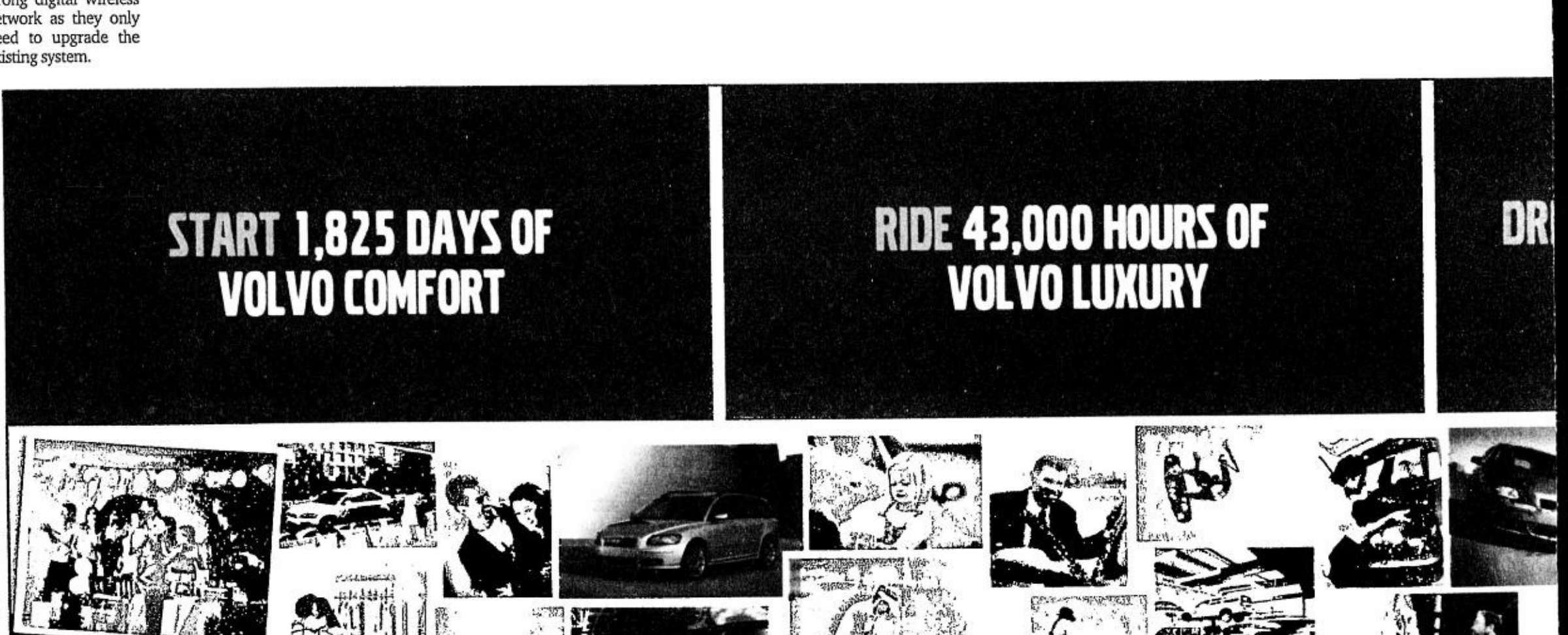
Earned over 65 million Membership Rewards® points.

* Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 5381, Series of 2005

START 1,825 DAYS OF VOLVO COMFORT

RIDE 43,000 HOURS OF VOLVO LUXURY

DR



THAT'S ABSOLUTELY FREE OF CHARGES.

THAT'S ABSOLUTELY FREE OF WORRIES.

VoIP firms must pass through telcos, NTC guidelines say

COMPANIES PLANNING TO OFFER CHEAP overseas calls through the Internet, or Voice over Internet Protocol, have to pass through the network of fixed-line carriers, according to the National Telecommunications Commission.

The NTC yesterday issued guidelines for value-added service providers that would like to engage in VoIP services.

These companies are looking at more than eight million Filipinos working overseas as a major market for overseas calls for as low as 5 US cents a minute against the average rate of 40 US cents a minute.

VoIP players, said the NTC, cannot use foreign IP addresses in selling cheap calls via the Internet.

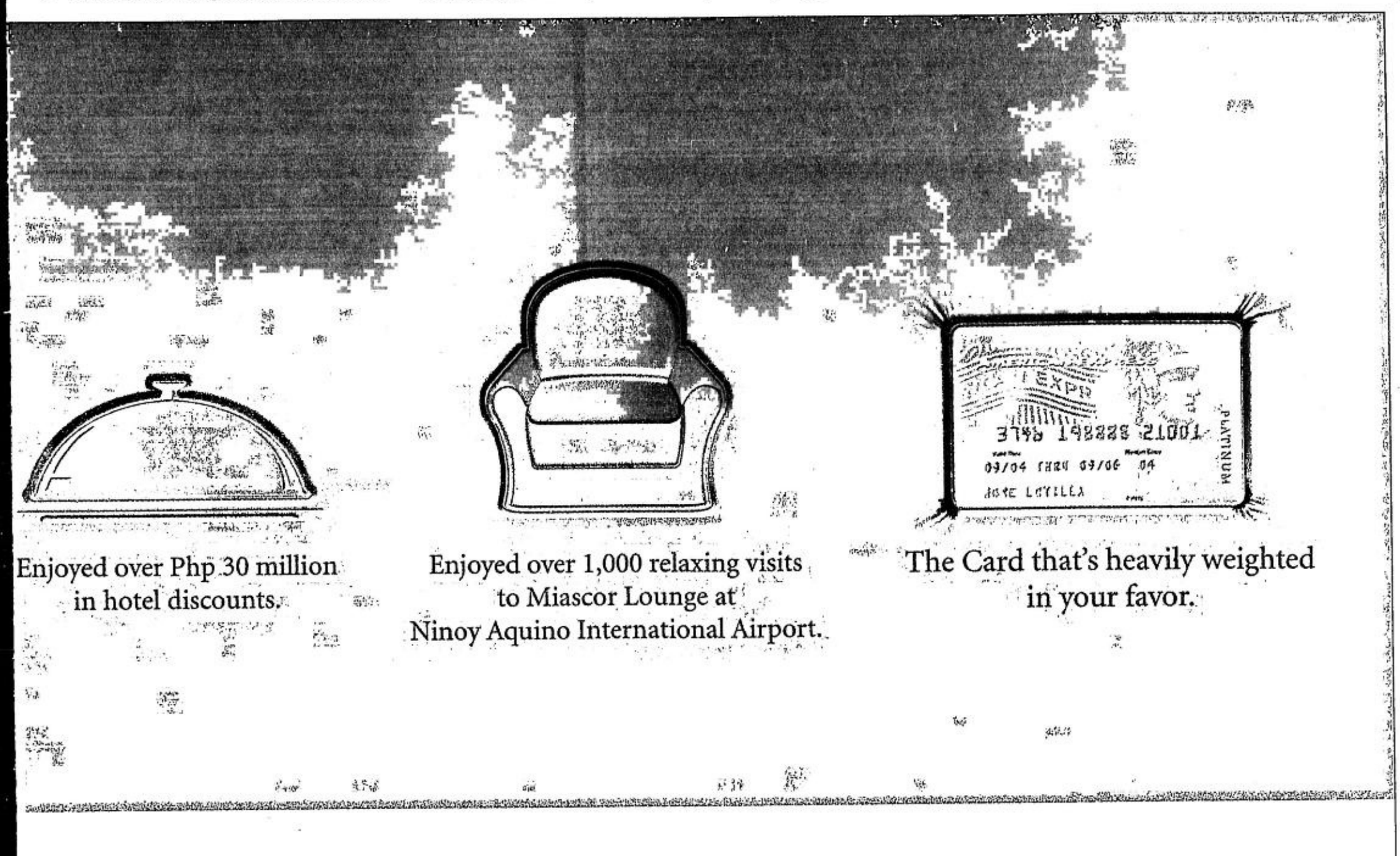
The NTC had assigned codes for local exchange players.

All inbound and outbound VoIP traffic must pass through their networks.

When a call goes through a foreign IP address, it bypasses the network of the Philippine telecom firms.

And that, according to a lawyer for a major telco, is illegal.

The NTC also said that while VoIP had been opened even to non-telcos, it would be limited to companies that are 60-percent owned by Philippine firms. Clarissa S. Batino



Cebu steps into power dispute

By Jolene R. Bulambot and Connie E. Fernandez
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—CEBU Governor Gwendolyn Garcia yesterday called an emergency meeting with officials from the Visayan Electric Cooperative, Cebu Private Power Corp. and Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) to avert a power shortage.

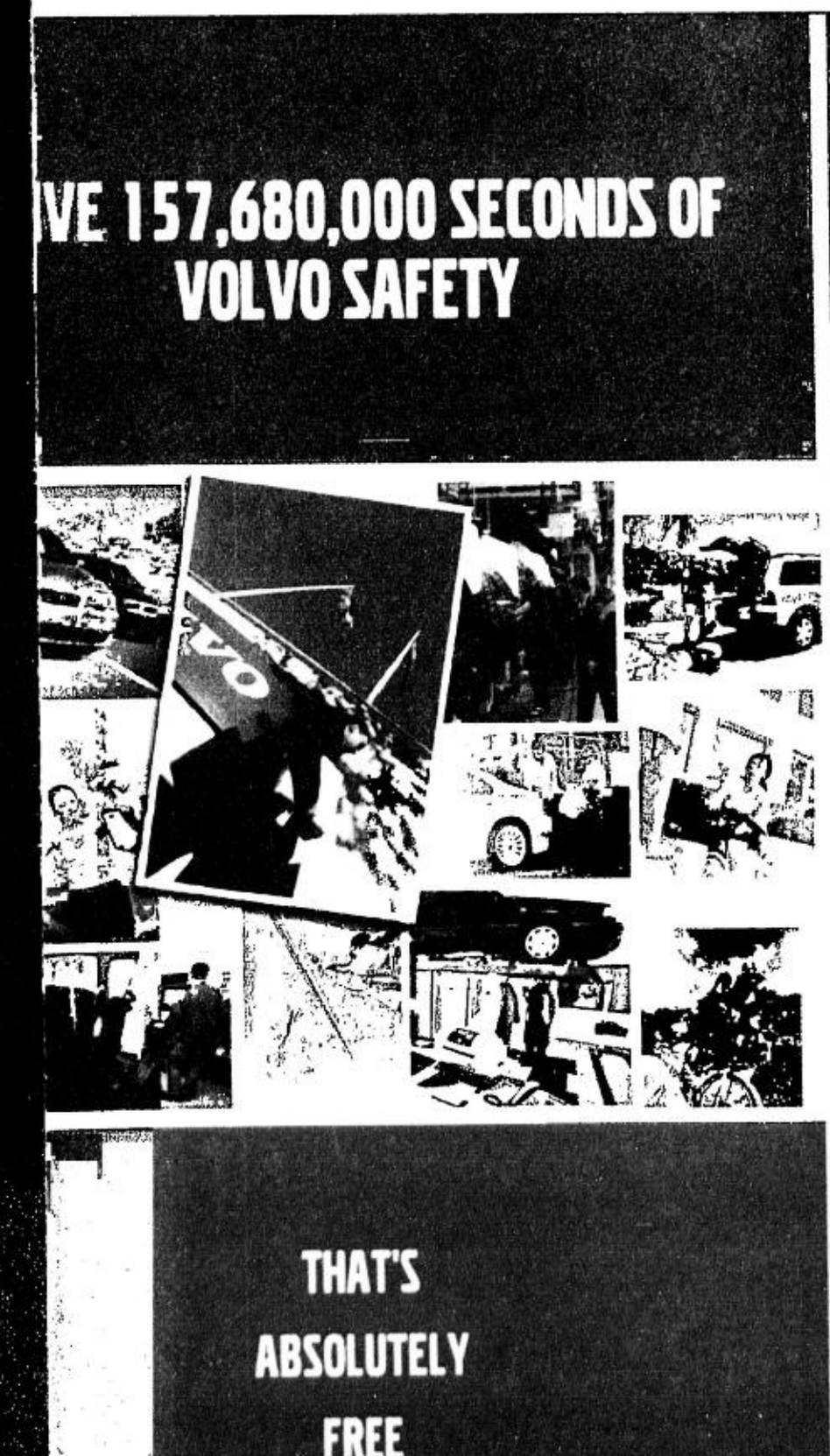
This came after CPPC said it might suspend operations of its power generation plant in Barangay Ermita here on Saturday due to a dispute over an interim supply contract with Veco.

Garcia said she hoped that a compromise agreement would be met by the parties during the meeting scheduled yesterday afternoon.

CPPC supplies 23 percent of the requirements of Veco, equivalent to 62 megawatts.

Veco distributes power to the cities of Cebu, Mandaue and Talisay, and the towns of Minglanilla, Naga, San Fernando, Consolacion and Liloan.

Veco said in a statement that it was always open to negotiation, but found CPPC's prices "high" and "grossly disadvantageous to its customers."



REBAP

REAL ESTATE BROKERS ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES, INC.

27th Annual National Convention & Election

November 24 - 26, 2005 • Villa Caceres, Naga City

CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

- Keynote address of Cong. Joey Salceda Representative, 3rd District Province of Albay
- Election and Induction of National Board of Directors and Officers for the Year 2006
- Chapter presentations with the theme: "REBAP One"
- Gala Night
- Mini Photo-Exhibit of Chapter Activities
- Mini Trade Exhibit
- Project Presentations by Developers/Sponsors
- Tour of Legaspi City and Mayon Volcano

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
MALACAÑANG PALACE
M a n i l a

My esteemed greetings to the officers and members of the Real Estate Brokers Association of the Philippines, Inc. as you hold your 27th Annual National Convention and Election of Officers.

REBAP Inc. has been a consistent partner of government in working the progress and development of our country. Your theme, "REBAP Inc. Number One," shows that you are really committed to raise the level of the Philippine real estate industry.

Your association complements our vision of providing our less-fortunate countrymen with low-cost housing, livelihood opportunities and basic amenities.

I have included the real estate and housing industry as a priority in our Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan. This goes hand-in-hand with our plans to decongest Metro Manila and develop Clark and Subic as investment and growth centers. I am glad that you are one with me in achieving our ten-point legacy agenda.

Gloria Arroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

dti DEPARTMENT OF TRADE & INDUSTRY PHILIPPINES

I wish to convey felicitations and congratulations to the officers and members of the Real Estate Brokers Association of the Philippines (REBAP), Inc. for holding its 27th Annual National Convention and Election of Officers and Directors for Y2006 on 24-26 November at Villa Caceres Hotel, Magsaysay Avenue, Naga City

Your collective contribution to the professionalization and upgrading of the realty service practice during your organization's existence is very commendable, which your chosen theme "REBAP, Inc, Number One" speaks well of your members' commitment to excellent service. As such, the role of your organization in carrying out your part in national growth and progress is looked upon with high expectations.

My sincerest wishes for the success of your endeavor, Mabuhay!

VICTORIO MARIO A. DIMAGIBA
Director, BTRCP & Chairman,RESCOP

COUNCIL OF LEADERS
Real Estate Brokers Association of the Philippines, Inc.

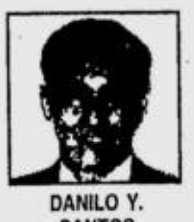
On behalf of the Council of Leaders, I convey our warmest greetings to the members and officers of the Association and to the 27th National Convention and Election on November 24 – 26, 2005 at Villa Caceres Hotel, Naga City.

I wish to congratulate the 2005 National Board of Directors for having an exemplary job reactivation of several chapters in a span of nine (9) months a feat that is befitting our convention theme " REBAP NO. 1"

MORE POWER AND MABUHAY!!

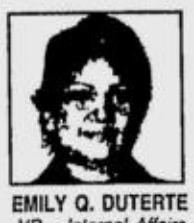
POLICARPIO B. ALBERTO
Chairman, Council of Leaders

2005 National Directors & Officers

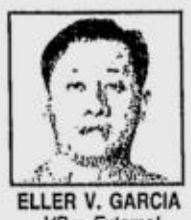


DANILO Y. SANTOS
Chairman of the Board

MA. CARLOTA A. DOMINGO
National President



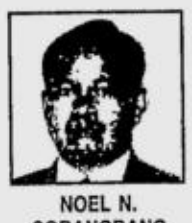
EMILY Q. DUTERTE
VP – Internal Affairs



ELLER V. GARCIA
VP – External Affairs

AURORA M. PUNZALAN
VP - Finance

EVANGELINE A. YIA
Secretary General

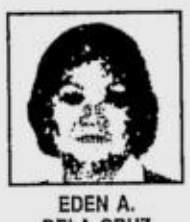


NOEL N. COBANGBANG
National Treasurer

LUIS G. GONZALES
National Auditor

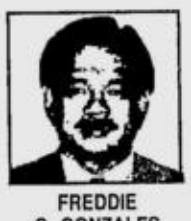
AMORE P. ISIP
National PRO

ANITA M. MOJICA
National Director



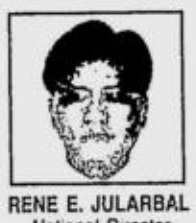
EDEN A. DELA CRUZ
National Director

FERNANDO V. MAPILE
National Director



FREDDIE C. GONZALES
National Director

MA. CATHERINE D. YULO
National Director



RENE E. JULARBAL
National Director

MANOLITO G. NEBRE
Immediate Past President

REBAP
Real Estate Brokers Association of the Philippines, Inc.

My warmest greetings to all the members of the Real Estate Brokers Association of the Philippines (REBAP), Inc. on the occasion of its 27th National Convention and Election of Officers in Naga City.

Congratulations to the National Officers and members of the board for giving us the full support in initiating the chapter expansion nationwide and the other priority programs for this year. Let us keep working as a team to sustain what we started. This is our ultimate goal for REBAP to maintain number one.

On our 27th year, my lasting prayer to the success of my fellow rebapers.

CRB DANILO Y. SANTOS
2005 Chairman of the Board

REBAP
Real Estate Brokers Association of the Philippines, Inc.

My warmest greetings to the National Board of Directors, officers and members of the Real Estate Brokers Association of the Philippines (REBAP), Inc. on their 27th Annual Convention and Election of new set of officers. With the theme "Rebap One," we can safely claim that inspite of the financial crisis we have undergone, our organization has shown that it can be resilient in times like this and shall come out strong and profitable in our line of business.

With the growth of more than 20% in membership, attracting more business partners along the way, and widening the base of our network to the help of our website, all these are positive indications that REBAP will remain and continue to be number one in the years to come.

And on that note I wish to thank each and everyone for all their valuable support in helping this organization to achieve the status it has always aimed for.

Mabuhay fellow Rebapers & Congratulations!

MA. CARLOTA"Cherith"A. DOMINGO
2005 National President

REBAP
Real Estate Brokers Association of the Philippines, Inc.

Warmest greetings to all guests and delegates of the Real Estate Association of the Philippines, Inc. on the occasion of its 27th National Convention. Welcome to the beautiful City of Naga!

In the midst of a brewing political storm, threatening to divide our country and further throwing our people in economic despair, this year's convention theme "REBAP ONE" is most appropriate. We may have different opinions; come from different directions; have different ways of doing things, but in the end we remain: ONE organization with the vision of providing the best service in the real estate profession.

As in previous national conventions, the program is designed to afford the members the mixture of learnings from our competent resource speakers on one hand and fellowship and fun on the other hand. Let us take this time to recharge ourselves and participate in discussions that will help us improve our craft and be the best in our field.

At this point, allow me to thank all our delegates for taking time off from their busy schedules and making this convention truly memorable. My heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to our sponsors and our donors; to the members of the national board; to Pres. Cheritt Domingo and Chairman Danny Santos; the different Chairpersons; the tireless Chapter Presidents; and most especially the officers and members of Rebap Naga Chapter led by Pres. Jorge Palma. Maraming Salamat Sa Inyong Lahat!

We are and we shall remain: REBAP ONE!

EMILY QUEVEDO-DUTERTE
27th National Convention Chairman

MAJOR SPONSORS

Haciendas de Naga
Rapid Warning — YOUR TOTAL STEEL BUILDING SOLUTION
ENJOY REALTY & DEV'T. CORP. — It's all about life, take it ... enjoy!
Philippine Daily Inquirer

MINOR SPONSORS

CHANWORKS MARKETING
PHOENIX LAND, INC (LAS HACIENDAS)
MANILA GLOBAL REAL ESTATE VENTURES LTD.
CITIBANK

---

afp retirement and separation benefits system
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City
Telephone Nos. 911-4071 to 80

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Republic of the Philippines

Procurement of a Contract for the Construction of the Riviera Sports and Country Club, Inc. (RSCCI) Main Clubhouse in Silang, Cavite

1. The **AFP Retirement and Separation Benefits System (AFP-RSBS)**, through the Corporate Budget for the contract approved by the Governing Board intends to apply the sum of **Two Hundred Twenty Three Million Three Hundred Two Thousand Two Hundred Seventy Two Philippine Pesos (Php 223,302,272.00)** being the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Construction of the RSCCI Main Clubhouse. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The AFP-RSBS now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs) from potential Bidders to apply for eligibility for Construction of the RSCCI Main Clubhouse, consisting of three (3) contiguous buildings: a Sports Club, a Health Club and a Pavilion situated at By-pass Road, Aguinaldo Hi-way in Silang, Cavite. Bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the above type and cost of the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents. Interested Bidders must submit their LOIs **on or before 5:00 P.M. of 08 December 2005 at CMA-C RSBS Building 424 Capinpin Avenue Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City** and secure the Eligibility Documents therefrom. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for the submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents shall be on the date of the opening of Eligibility Documents: **22 December 2005 at 9:05 A.M.** at the AFP-RSBS Board Room, AFP-RSBS Building, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Documents.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A 9184, only Bids from eligible Bidders will be opened. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184 a contract will only be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.
4. Interested Bidders shall submit their accomplished Eligibility Documents to the BAC Secretariat at the **AFP-RSBS Board Room, AFP-RSBS Building 424 Capinpin Avenue, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City on or before 9:00 A.M. of 22 December 2005.**
5. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from the AFP-RSBS and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below.
6. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of **Twenty Thousand Philippine Pesos (Php 20,000.00)**. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative **on 28 December 2005.**
7. The AFP-RSBS will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders **on 27 January 2006 at 10:00 A.M. at the AFP-RSBS Board Room, AFP-RSBS Building 424 Capinpin Avenue, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.**
8. Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the address below **on or before 08 February 2006 at 2:00 P.M.** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit and in an amount of **Two Million Two Hundred Thirty Three Thousand Twenty Two and 72/100 Philippine Pesos (Php 2,233,022.72)** or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall be **on 08 February 2006 at 2:05 P.M. at the AFP-RSBS Board Room, AFP-RSBS Building 424 Capinpin Avenue, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.** Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below on 08 February 2006.
9. The AFP-RSBS reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
AFP Retirement and Separation Benefits System
AFP-RSBS Building, 424 Capinpin Avenue
Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City
Telephone Nos. 9114071 local 266/289/240

(Sgd.) **FRANKLIN C ACOSTA**
Vice Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Nov 25 & Dec. 2, 2005)

---

afp retirement and separation benefits system
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City
Telephone Nos. 911-4071 to 80

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Republic of the Philippines

Procurement of Security Services for the San Lorenzo South Subdivision in Sta. Rosa, Laguna and/or Security Services for the Riviera Project in Silang, Cavite

1. The **AFP RETIREMENT AND SEPARATION BENEFITS SYSTEM (AFP-RSBS)**, through the Corporate Budget for the contract approved by the Governing Board intends to apply the sum of **Two Million One Hundred Seventy Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Philippine Pesos (Php 2,177,700.00)** for the procurement of **Security Services for the San Lorenzo South Subdivision located in Sta. Rosa, Laguna,** and **Four Million Five Hundred Two Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Three and 28/100 Philippine Pesos (Php 4,502,753.28)** for the procurement of **Security Services for the Riviera Project located in Silang, Cavite,** being the Approved Budgets for the Contracts (ABC) to payments under the contracts for Security Services. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The **AFP-RSBS** now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the **Procurement of Security Services for the San Lorenzo South Subdivision in Sta. Rosa, Laguna and/or for the Riviera Project in Silang, Cavite.** The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/ sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the **AFP-RSBS** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders on **15 December 2005** from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of **Three Thousand Philippine Pesos (Php 3,000.00)** for the San Lorenzo South Subdivision and **Five Thousand Philippine Pesos (Php 5,000.00)** for the Riviera Project. The method of payment will be cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The AFP-RSBS will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties **on 05 January 2006 at 2:00pm at the AFP-RSBS Board Room, AFP-RSBS Building, 424 Capinpin Avenue, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.**
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below **on or before 9:00am of 17 January 2006.** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of cash, check or bank guarantee and in the amount specified in the Bid Data Sheet. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be **on 17 January 2006 at 9:05am at the AFP-RSBS Board Room, AFP-RSBS Building, 424 Capinpin Avenue, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.** Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
9. Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communications should be addressed to the undersigned at the following address:

Bids and Awards Committee
AFP-RSBS Building, 424 Capinpin Avenue Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City
Tel Nos. 9114071 local 266/289/240

10. The AFP-RSBS reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) **FRANKLIN C ACOSTA**
Vice Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Nov 25 & Dec. 2, 2005)

LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

No. 11-073-05

The Light Rail Transit Authority (LRTA) invites interested parties to submit proposals and quotations for:

CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR THE CONDUCT OF:
"A study for a Business Plan Development for the Commercial/Industrial Utilization of Light Rail Transit Authority Properties"

Interested parties may submit their printed proposals on A4 format, not later than 05 December 2005, which should contain the following:

1. Company Profile
2. List of current and past clients and similar studies.
3. Scope of services offered; data and decision instruments generated.
4. Priority ranking of investment areas and matching with minimum value areas and similar schemes to ensure optimum utilization/benefit from leasable areas.
5. Duration of the study.
6. Cost of the study

Site inspection and request for data and pertinent LRTA records (e.g. titles, location maps, etc.) will be from November 25 to 30, 2005.

Questions and clarifications may be coursed through Ms. Edith Amado, Business Development Unit, Light Rail Transit Authority, LRTA Compound, Aurora Boulevard, Pasay City with telephone numbers: 891-78-76 or 853-0041 to 50 local 8341 during regular office hours.

Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–Nov. 25, 2005)

PNOC ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION PNOC

Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, 1200 Taguig City, Philippines
P.O. Box 2102 MCPO Tel. No. 893-6001 to 47/893-1320; Fax no. 840-1575

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PNOC - Energy Development Corporation (PNOC-EDC) invites interested contractors, with successful experience as primary contractor in the execution of at least three (3) piping insulation and cladding projects within the last ten (10) years, to apply for eligibility and to bid for the project:

INSULATION AND CLADDING WORKS FOR THE NORTHERN NEGROS GEOTHERMAL PROJECT - FLUID COLLECTION AND REINJECTION SYSTEM (NNGP-FCRS)
EDC 05-196

The Approved Budget is PhP 33,672,980.40 chargeable against PNOC-EDC fund. The contract duration is 150 calendar days.

Application forms for eligibility and bidding documents may be secured from the PNOC-EDC Contracts Administration Group (c/o Francis T. Tolibas local 5179) starting **November 21, 2005** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Pesos: One Thousand Five Hundred (PhP 1,500.00)**

Site inspection is on **November 25, 2005** at the Northern Negros Geothermal Project in Negros Occidental. For the purpose of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on **November 29, 2005, 10:00 A.M.** at the BAC Conference Room, First Floor, Building V, PNOC-EDC, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila.

The application for eligibility, letter of intent and sealed bids shall be received by the PNOC-EDC Contracts Administration Group, First Floor, Building V, PNOC-EDC, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila **not later than 2:00 p.m. (Contracts Administration Group Office Wall Clock Time) of December 15, 2005** and shall be publicly opened immediately thereafter

PNOC - EDC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, to accept such bids or to award any part of the work to any bidder whose bid is considered most advantageous to PNOC-EDC.

The Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–Nov. 18 & 25, 2005)

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION

Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
☎ 897-8425 (Direct) ☎ 8978808 (Trunk) Fax 897-8425
G/F ATRIUM BLDG., MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY
☎ 912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6872354 ☎ 6872366 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 5224406 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS

The Widest Reaching Classifieds

RATES
P245 per column centimeter
P75 per line
(All prices exclusive of E-VAT)

DEADLINES
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Mondays to Saturdays: 12:00 noon, Day before publication
Sundays: 12:00 noon, every Thursday

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES | **REAL ESTATE FOR SALE** | **REAL ESTATE FOR SALE** | **REAL ESTATE FOR SALE** | **REAL ESTATE FOR SALE**

MEDICAL

PHYSICIAN/SURGEON

RAPID Tx VD-STD
Ex. SWEAT PIMPLES KELOID ALLERGY WARTS SKIN PEEL
15 Annapolis Greenhills
Call 7276124 - 25 9am-7pm

VDSTD CLINIC COMP LAB
Most STD Treated W/Oral Medications
T 8175071 Matrinco Bldg
2178 P.Tamo Mkti City

GARMA CLINIC
VD SPECIALIST
VD GONORRHEA, WARTS SYPHILIS, STD, HERPES
ADULT CIRCUMCISION
Painless, Bloodless
BOLITAS, SKIN DISEASES
ALLERGIES, VAGINAL REPAIR, RE-CURRENT UTI ALMORANAS, ERECTION PROBLEMS INFERTILITY/IMPOTENCE MOLE/CYST/SCAR REMOVAL KELOID/PAP SMEAR
COMPLETE LABORATORY
Garma Bldg., No. 8 Purdue St., Cubao, Q.C.
OPEN 9 AM to 5 PM MON. to SAT.
TEL. NOS. 4392706 / 9139474 4373898

PERSONAL

COSMETOLOGY

WHITENING CAPS P1500
PINK Nips Lips Cheeks Cream
P800 • 4545667• 09189235216

HOUSEHOLD

HOUSEHOLD JOBS

All arnd Maid Yaya 4399290
BEST MAIDS PROV'L 4939216
Direct Maid Yaya Cook Boy 8955702
Direct Maid Yaya Int'l cook 7289060
Help Agency 5328376 • 5321947
LOW RATE Maid 4337898
MARSIFOR AGENCY 4373040
NEED MAIDS 4328194
Trained Maids w/NBI 4395725
Trusted Maid Ya' A/A 7574339
Trusted Maids Yaya H'boy 7572089
Yaya, Cook H'maid 8957507
Yaya/Hmaids/F.Driver •773-8998 • 0918-7095816•

LIPAT BAHAY

•731-6833•LIPAT
L-BAHAY 9206784 4540520
Cheap 9260424/09163416775
OPEN&CLOSE VANS TEL/731-8549
•P1300/TRIP 742-14-57

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

COMMU/RESDL

QUEZON CITY

★ KATIPUNAN EXT ★
LA315-1119m² Commi nr Ateneo
P9500-10T/m² 0918-9235216

HOUSE & LOT

MAKATI

160sqm 4BR w/ garage Nr J.P. Rizal P5.5M T-8958239
3.5M Cardona St. 09208309744

Lots, H&L C5 nr Fort
1.4M-13M Nr McKinley Hills 4-5br 10% DP or 3Yrs No Int or No DP 10mins Fr. Ayala 0917-8313226

MANILA

INTRAMUROS 09153709774

MANDALUYONG

NEAR SHAW BLVD
BnewThse/3stry/3br/3-4tb maids1-2grgeP3.780M8903461

MARIKINA

Bnew 4br3tb jacuzi 3.2M 9467112

GUEVENTHOMES

BACOOR only 10 mins from Bacoor!
as low as P950T
30% D/P in easy installment
20% balance thru in-house conversion to Pag-IBIG Housing Loan
P6,606/mo*
*Pag-IBIG Housing Loan

Soon to rise!
walk to University Belt
as low as P700T
CASH/TERMS
STUDENT CONDO

534-9921 * 531-0390 * 439-6728 * 534-8350 * 531-1384*
(0917) 855-7881 * (0920) 950-4626 * (0920) 911-0002
(0920) RSGHOME * Toll Free: 1-800-10-RSGHOME * www.guevent.com

CONDO/TWNHSE | **CONDO/TWNHSE**

QUEZON CITY | **QUEZON CITY**

JUBILEE VILLAS
Celebrate Life
Create Happy Memories
HALF USUAL CONDO PRICES

Top Quality Townhouses
2 or 3 bedrooms, attic, living room w/ powder rm. dining room, kitchen, 2 T&B, maid's room w/T&B, laundry / storage area, 1 or 2-car garage, secured compound, water tank, swimming pool
LA: 64 -70 sqm
GFA: 157 sqm. approx
INDIVIDUAL LOT TITLE

24 units SOLD
3 Newly Built Units Left For Sale
READY FOR OCCUPANCY
Initial down payment as low as Php540,000.00.
Easy payment terms *Discount for cash sale
Bank/In-House Financing avible for qualified buyers
We will customize your payment terms.
Licensed Brokers are welcome.
Come & view our model unit
90 Banlat Road, Tandang Sora, Quezon City
Exclusive Marketing: ZITRO REAL ESTATE
HLURB License #04012
For inquiries, please call 818-2781 / 751-5472 0916-55882538
Email: jubvilla@info.com.ph www.jubileevillas.com.ph

CRYSTAL MANSION
2 & 3 BR UNITS
Low monthly, Low down
Tel.: 414-0573, 0919-8374835

HOUSE & LOT

MARIKINA

PROVIDENT VILL nr ATENEO 413m² w/ 3hses nr gate P4M LOT ONLY 301m² gate Rush 2.2Mneg T6356003; 9338423

QUEZON CITY

3 STRY 4BR 5CR NICE BIG 300LA 370FA 9.5M 38 DAGUPAN SFDM 09178909502
3M Comi 54m² 09229226408
NICE Bnew 4BR5TB garden Dreamhse 28 Balete 7218182

CAVITE

BACOOR 535K CP-092726690
TAGAYTAY NEW HOUSE P3.5M NEAR MCDO LOT 2,300m² AT P1,200/m² TEL7337767/69/73

LAGUNA

Brandnew H&L 1M-25M (10am-5pm) 842-1914/842-9570/0915-8260255

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

10%DP Lipat Agad!
1.3M-Up 3Yrs. No Int 2-4BR C5 Near Fort / Mkti 0917-8169849
Exclusive Brand New Condo 1M Up 1-2br Nr C5 Mkt Nels Rd 10%DP Move In 0919-2784806
MAKATI CONDO
RENT / SALE : Ready to move-in
843-0887 / 887-5318
www.condo.com.ph
MKTI/MLA BNEW CONDO SALE / RENT 0917-8266516

•ORIENTAL GARDENS•
19M CASH or TERMS 10,000/mo
www.orientalgardenstower.com

•MACTAN TOWER•
ROXAS BLVD (PRE-SELLING)
1,2,3BR as low as 18,000/mo.
524-2780•0917-8248178/Edwin

MANILA

NR LA SALLE TAFT
BnewThse/3stry/3br/3-4tb maids1-2grgeP3.995M8903461

MANDALUYONG

CONDO, BNEW, 09192189917

MANDALUYONG

Condo4Sale 6WeckWeck Rd. 6F 174sm 3BRM 3 1/2 Bath 2CPA ek Upgrade Unit 0917-8865134

PARANAQUE

1.4M RESORT-TYPE nr NAIA 10% DP to move-in, or 0%, or No DP 1st Class, Bnew • 0917-5234223

PASAY

BAYVIEW INTL TOWERS
ROXAS BLVD 3BR-P5M W/2 PARKINGS 165SQM 8558118 / 843-9302

PASIG

Kpitolyo 5.5M 3br 6341212
Malayan Plaza 634-1212
Malayan Plaza Best Location Podium 4121825 09177914366
Rent / Sale 123BR Terms RFO Call 414-0573

ST. FRANCIS TOWERS
Nr. EDSA Shangri-la Hotel w/ Access 2 MRT P2.7M Up
09178072053 / 6714421

QUEZON CITY

1studio unit 30.19m² Infront NCBA nr LRT Aurora 1.5neg 7230227/28 Nemy
Cubao P1.5M 10%DP 5yrs to Pay *0* Interest 9126976 Rose
New Mla 4br 09175213838
TEACHER'S VIL QC
18 Mahabagin St. 5BR 4T&B 5.8M 9132701/0918-9356366

LOT

MAKATI

GUADALUPE NUEVO 3 LOTS 762 SQM CALL 09195998039

PARANAQUE

MARCELO-328sqm cor P5.5T 771-0139 / 0917-824-4864

PASIG

VALLE VERDE 5 MORN'G SUN 400m² @ P39T/m² 6337601-03

QUEZON CITY

GRAND VILLAS Top Row w/view back ATENEO LOTS has & lots avble 426-6660 929-1832 • 0919-8212235

CORTE BELLA
The Metro Homes Division of
FILINVEST LAND, INC.

OPEN HOUSE ON NOV. 27

BIANCA house model - 166.70 sqm. floor area

SOUTHPEAK
San Pedro, Laguna
No Downpayment! 5 years at 0% Interest!*
*Lots only
Only TEN (10) minutes from Alabang via the San Pedro Exit!
For inquiries, pls. call: 772-2745

BAYWATCH TOWER
M.H. Del Pilar St., Malate, Manila (at the back of Chinese Embassy, Roxas Boulevard, Manila)

ENJOY THE MAGNIFICENT VIEW OF MANILA BAY
UNITS FOR SALE OR LEASE!
Furnished and Unfurnished
Pls. visit or call
5236640 / 5236630
AVAILABLE
Studio, 1, 2 and 3 BR
READY FOR OCCUPANCY

Avail Big Discounts!
A happy family deserves a home at ...
Birmingham
PLACE • HOMES CANTA, RIZAL ANTIPOLO CITY
MEADOWS • SUNRISE RODRIGUEZ, RIZAL SAN MATEO, RIZAL

NORTHAMPTON
3 BR 2 TB W/ BATH TUB & CARPORT
LOTS as low as P9T/Mo
H & L as low as P13T/Mo
Call: 655-0134
www.hdc-realestate.com

LOT

QUEZON CITY

★KATIPUNAN Ext Real lot nr UP Ateneo 204 to 408m² P8,500/m² 0918-9235216★
Rush Acropolis Morning Sun Very Nice Location @P13M •T8898475;4796 6337601-03•

OTHER AREAS

Talisay City Cebu 169m² Pacific Hts URGENT! Tel 8274423 Pia Rodriguez

OFFICE SPACE

Pioneer(Globe) Mandaluyong 89-206m² Rent/Sale 09192189917

MEMORIAL LOT

Heritage Park II 634-1212

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

COMMERCIAL

MAKATI

Comml/Office Spaces for lease (51m²-627m²)887-6003

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

COMMERCIAL

QUEZON CITY

Studio FF Newly Renovated Nice View Garden Hts 269 E. Rodriguez Sr. Blvd Tel 810-0788 • 892-4328

COMMERCIAL/ RESIDENTIAL

KALOOCAN

2nd ST NR RIZAL AVE 2BR 2TB FA 72 P10T/m² 7312189 / 7312110

HOUSE

PASAY

PASAY EDSA 1-2BR 2318973

CONDO/TWNHSE

MANILA

CONDO NR UST 09155835289
Ocean Tower, Rxs Blvd 3BR&TB, Pkg, Facing Bay 55K; 09178587929

PARANAQUE

Better Living Pque Twnhse Unit 16 Thailand St. Call 8974044 • Ashley

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

CONDO/TWNHSE

SAN JUAN

G'HILLS 1BR 5268048

VARIED AREAS

Makati/Ortigas 1-2-3 BRS P25-90T/mo 889-0475;4798

ROOM & BOARD

El Grande Inn 8257524 BF Pque P200! Tel8275345
Windsor Inn Maceda St nr 7-11 Dimasalang, Manila 7118679, 7836761(24hrs)

BEDSPACE

Mkti nr Ayala P1T Ldy 8974697

BUSINESS RENTAL

MAKATI nr BUENDIA
148m² & 185m² 8903461 ofc hrs
MAYON NR RETIRO JOLLIBEE 2TB FA120 22T/mo 7312110/89
Dental Clinic For Sale/Lease Rm224 Atrium Bldg Makati •811-4071/823-6047•

OTHER PROVINCIAL

Prime property along O-G Rd, Sta Cruz, Lubao, Pampanga in front of public market, beside church w/ bldg. & parking, densely populated area, ideal for Jollibee, McDonalds, banks. Pls. Call: 09214355443

RESORT LEASE/ RENT

Pansol HotSpring priv 5T 7767507

LOAN & MORTGAGE

BUSINES .DCTOR 824-3197 0919-3227420

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

MALATE MLA 526-6046/49

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

MAKATI

2BR 1Mds Rm 3TB Sale 5M•Rent 30T /mo. 110m² nr Mkt City Hall Call Arlene 8990612/09287132967

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

OTHER CAR BRANDS

BERYLLE CARS
Araneta Ctr Cubao nr All Mall finance T-In consignment Pajero Trooper Lite-TownAce Delica Serena Largo Estima Safari Surf Fargo rvr Elf Canter 4-6W etc slot rental
0917-8342020 / 02-9120647

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

Affordable Rent a Car Hilux, Vios, Corolla Low Rates 0920-9518097
CarsVans CoasterBus 422-9296

MARIAN CARS•VANS•BRDAL 8 9 6 9 9 5 6
CARS•VAN•XPDTN•COASTER•BENZ
8131975/76 (0917)8334555
Cheap Van 9330311;9348411

•FRANCIS CAR RENTAL•
ALL CARS U/DRIVE W/DRIVER
T-8334476;7291858 CEL 09186985178
CRV Innova Starex 9483535
P800/L3 9136710 / 4333682

ABC OPEN 24 HRS.
HI-ACE•STAREX•CRV L300•URVAN•REVO
NEW CARS/SUV/4X4/BUSES
MLA:536-8822•303-9789
Q.C.:426-2276•426-4084

CAR LOAN

1% Auto Easy 5344441
1.5% w/o taking Car 7228942-43
1% AUTOLOAN 788-0381
1% Car Lending 856-0140 United Tree Car Loan Corp.
2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33
1% CARLOAN 373-6519
1.5% easy carloan 7815352/55
1% Easy Car Loan 4112547/48
1% w/out taking car 7262760
1% w/out taking car 5315577
1.5% Easy Car Loan 3748765
2% w/oTaking Car 8959454
1.5% w/oTaking Car 3732081/82
1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75
2% w/o taking car 7880183-84
2% w/o taking car 7723810/12
2% w/oTaking Car 8959454
2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

YAMAHA GRAND & UPRIGHT
ELITE PIANO CENTER
Almost New:TERMS-7213124

PETS

DOG TRAINER 0919-7219020

PerfectLogistics Phils., Inc.
Manila/Rizal area Marcos hi-way, Santa Rizal br (beside San Benildo Sch)
Subic 54 c Innovative St. Industrial Park, SBMA
BIGGEST SALE EVER!!!
➢ *"Special Arrangement"* for OFWs, SEAMANS, PILOTS, BALIK BAYAN.
DITO KA NA SA SIGURADO, MURA NA MAY WARRANTY PA!!!
Prices are too low to print.
Many units to choose from
➢ Mits. DELICA
➢ Nissan Caravan
➢ Estima LUCIDA, Emina
➢ PAJERO 2.8 / 2.5, SpaceGear 2.8 / 2.5
➢ TOYOTA Land Cruiser,
➢ Nissan SERENA
➢ Isuzu BIGHORN
➢ FORD Freda, MAZDA Frandee
➢ MITS RVR
➢ TOYOTA GRANVIA / REGULUS
➢ AND MANY MANY MORE
TRUCKS
ELF
FORWARD (Cargo, Wing Van)
10 Wheeler TRUCKS
• FINANCING Available
• 1yr Warranty in Conversion
• 1 mo. Warranty in Engine & Tranamission
NO Hidden Cost
In Good Running Condition
For more info, pls. Contact
Tel. Nos. (MANILA) 249-1818 Telefax: 249-1831
Mobile nos.: 0917-8579153 FRED 0926-6911125 EMIL
0916-2069813 REY 0918-5866075 JUN
SUBIC : (047) 252-58-99 • 0917-2700347

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

WANTED TO BUY

A NAME YOU CAN TRUST!
MANILA WATCH EXCHANGE
BUY • SELL • PAWN
ROLEX+OTHERS
& OTHER SWISS WATCHES
DIAMONDS / JEWELRY
HI-APPRAISAL/FAST CASH
REPAIR/POLISH ANY WATCH
T#804-0484 • 834-2886

PROFESSIONAL & CREDIBLE
WE BUY USED
SWISS WATCHES
SECONDO 2/F GLORIETTA 1 (8940282
SWISS WATCH LOANS
LOW 5% INTEREST
AGENCIA DE MAKATI 889-7958

WE BUY AT HIGH PRICE
ROLEX
5646593 5897041
5633742 0917-8473744

BUYING ROLEX
Other WATCHES, BEST PRICE
0917-8884040 • 7269687
7220433 • 4123543

MISCELLANEOUS

7Units BARBER'S CHAIR Layug with complete accesra 9123651 09175385586 Vic
GIVEAWAYS 0918-9336940

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of late Myrna G. Mata was extrajudicially settled by her heirs per Doc #346, page #105, Bk #XIV, Series 2005 before Notary Public Atty. Carlito V. Sembrano of Q.C. (PDI-Nov. 18,25 Dec. 2, 2005)

Notice is hereby given that estate of the late Gaudencia S. Aquino was extrajudicially settled by his widow and his children executed last November 18, 2005 before Notary Public Atty. Azucena E. Lozada who recorded the same in her notarial register as Doc. No.413 Page No.84 Book No.IV Series 2005.
PDI-Nov 25, Dec.2&9, 2005

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE INESTATE ESTATE OF THE PACITA VALLEJO MENCHACA, A RESIDENT OF SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA, WHO DIED IN THAT MUNICIPALITY ON SEPTEMBER 28, 2005, HAS BEEN SETTLED BY ANTONIO V. MENCHACA BY AN AFFIDAVIT OF SELF-ADJUDICATION EXECUTED ON OCTOBER 10, 2005 ACKNOWLEDGED BEFORE NOTARY PUBLIC FOR MAKATI CITY MA. RESA S. CELIZ WHO RECORDED THE SAME IN HER NOTARIAL REGISTER AS DOC. NO. 323; PAGE NO. 66; BOOK IX; SERIES OF 2005. (PDI NOV. 11, 18 & 25, 2005)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that Certificate of Residence / ICR No. 283290 issued on March 5, 1993 at Manila under the name of RAYMOND LOUIS MEYNET was lost. If no contest received new certificate will be issued. (PDI - Nov 11,18 & 25, 2005)

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

earnextranow.com code: atb2004 8531008 09178901851
Experienced Female Marketing Director 0917-8483228
Garments, P20 Up 412-8673
RTW CONSIGN 0917-8830002
PART-TIME BUSINESS Work thru phone Earn up to P20k/mo 378-2644 & 42

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

ACCOUNTANT/BOOKKEEPER 8151601
HIRING! CALL CENTER AGENTS FAX -RESUME AT 879-8274
HOME EXPERT SERVICES •773-8998 • 0918-7095816•
Part/Full Time English Teachers Pref w/ Call Ctr & Korean Language Ctr exp P100-150/hr 4330961
PHARMACIST 7363488

National Power Corporation
Republic of the Philippines

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Supply and Delivery of Imported Steaming Coal to Sual and Pagbilao CFTPP Batch I, CY2006

1. The National Power Corporation now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the above supply.
2. It intends to apply the sum as shown below being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC), inclusive of maximum loading tolerance.

Batch I Schedule-Plant	Volume, MT	Approved Budget for the Contract Inclusive of Maximum Loading Tolerance, Php	Bidding Date, Venue and Time
1A-SCFTPP (Regular/Lot)	5 lots of 1x65,000 +/- 7%	264,846,400.00/Lot	Dec. 16, 2005 Pahiyas - 9:30 AM
2A-PCFTPP (Performance/Lot)	5 lots of 1x65,000 +/- 10%	240,240,000.00/Lot	Dec. 16, 2005 Pahiyas - 9:30 AM
2B-PCFTPP (Blending Low Sulfur/Lot)	5 Lots of 1x65,000 +/- 10%	228,228,000.00/Lot	Dec. 16, 2005 Pahiyas - 9:30 AM

Note: This Batch I, Schedule cancels the previous invitation for the same supply published on October 27 & November 3, 2005

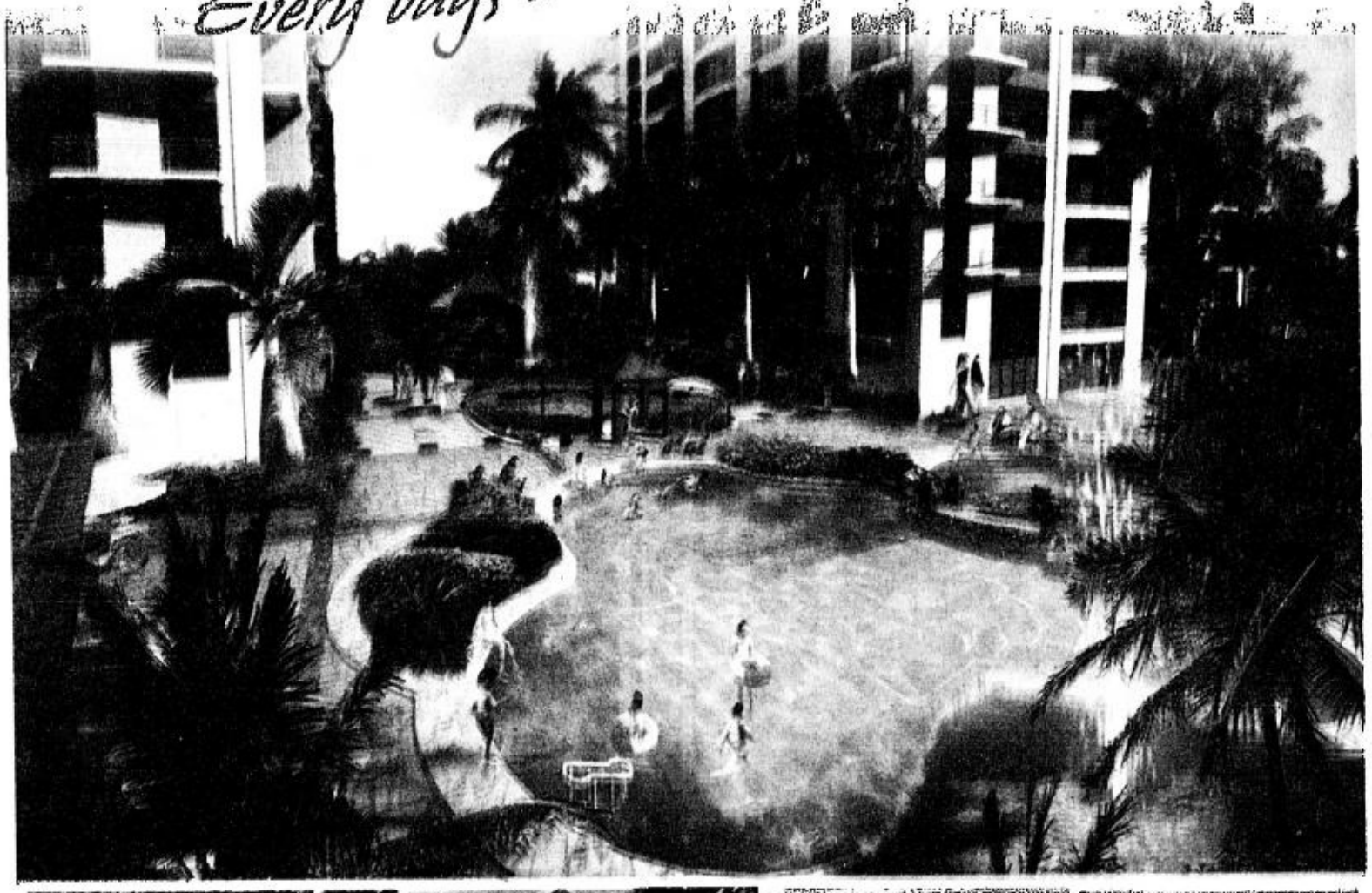
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the IRR-Part A of RA 9184, and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, Organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (RA 5183). Only bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened.
4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased from BCSD upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P20,000.00 per mine source per schedule, either in cash or manager's check. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
5. Pre-Bid Conference shall be on December 6, 2005, 9:00 a.m. at Pahiyas Function Room, NPC, Diliman, Quezon City.
6. Bidders are encouraged to submit Eligibility Documents on or before December 7, 2005 for evaluation and issuance of Class A certification.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered at designated venue on the bidding dates. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form and amount stated in theTender Document. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. NPC reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidders. Any inquiry regarding the above invitation shall be addressed to the undersigned.
9. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from Bids and Contracts Services Department (BCSD), NPC Building, Diliman, Quezon City at Tel. No. 922-1622 or visit NPC (www.napocor.gov.ph) and DBM (www.procurementservice.net.com) websites.

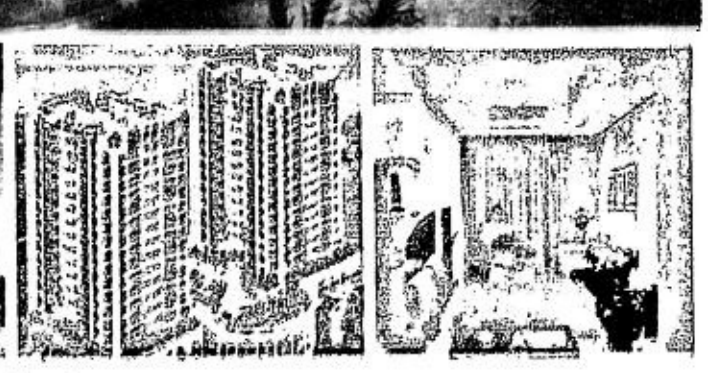
(Sgd.) **SILVANO C. ZANORIA**
Sr. Vice-President and
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Nov. 25 & Dec. 2, 2005)

BAY GARDEN MACTAN TOWER

Every day, come home to a big vacation





Introducing: Bay Garden Mactan Tower, the height of resort-inspired living from Federal Land.

The first thing you will notice is the view. The blue sky spreading out before you through your magnificent floor-to-ceiling windows. The cityscape unfolding before you from your outdoor lanai.

You will discover space. Lots of space. The outdoor playground. The mini-putting green. The outdoor barbecue. The poolside cabanas. Because Mactan Tower boasts of generous open space within the development.

So feel free to move. Relax. Be yourself. There will be no boundaries.

At Mactan Tower, every day feels like a vacation. That's why living here is sure to be a unique and liberating experience.

Visit us at Roxas Blvd., cor Edsa Ext., Metropolitan Park, Pasay City.

Call Now: Designer Showroom
www.baygarden.com.ph (632) 551 - 0888 FEDERALAND

Haydee Yorac's legacy

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

HAYDEE YORAC HAS BEEN buried. And properly so, at the Libingan ng mga Bayani. Through her life and work, Yorac showed what a true heroine can do during these challenging times. Her legacy lives on: In the work she accomplished, her writings and the people she inspired to fight for justice. Today, this legacy is under threat.

Three leaders

A large part of Yorac's legacy is the transparency she brought to government work and her fight for the coconut levy to go to the coconut farmers. She nominated for the United Coconut Planter's Bank (UCPB) board three farmer leaders, who shared her passion and commitment, to carry on this legacy.

At the UCPB board meeting this morning, these leaders will be replaced. All three have impressive track records in helping small farmers, including risking their lives during the Martial Law regime.

COMMENTARY

Vicente Fabe is chair of Pambansang Kilusan ng Samahang Magsasaka, the largest peasant organization in the country. Omi Royondoyan is the executive director of the Philippine Peasant Institute, a think tank known for its scholarly publications on small farmer issues. Joey Faustino is the executive director of the Coconut Industry Reform Movement, the acknowledged lead NGO in pursuing the coconut levy for small farmers.

Replacing them are Datu Mao Andong Jr., Alejandro Asis and Oscar Solidar. The new UCPB directors are all connected with the Partido Democratikong Sosialista ng Pilipina led by National Security Adviser Bert Gonzalez. Solidar is currently employed in Gonzalez's office.

Main issue

The three replaced leaders are signatories to a full page announcement in the Philippine Daily Inquirer yesterday. Its headline reads: "Huwag Ikompromiso ang Coconut Levy, Itaguyod ang Interes ng mga Maliliit na Magniniyog!" (Do not compromise the coconut levy, promote the interest of the small coconut farmers). This is the same position Yorac fought for.

The battle has high stakes. For the last 30 years, 20 million affected Filipinos in the coconut producing areas have been waiting to benefit from the coconut levy. Each family makes an average of only P20,000 a year, or P1,700 a month. They are among the poorest in the country's coconut-producing provinces. Thankfully, there has been some progress. On Dec. 14, 2001, the Supreme Court declared that coco levy funds are public funds and, therefore, they cannot belong to any private individual. Three years later, on Dec. 28, 2004, the Sandiganbayan declared that UCPB, the Coconut Industry and Investment Fund (CIIF) firms, the 14 holding companies, and the 27-percent CIIF-San Miguel Corp. shares worth P50 billion were "owned by the government in trust for all the coconut farmers."

Compromise settlements

Here is where the compromise settlement opposed by Yorac and the three farmer leaders comes into play. Though the SC decision has been made, it has not yet been made executory. Therefore, the farmers still cannot access the P50 billion worth of funds.

To get the P50 billion, the compromise suggestion is that an out-of-court settlement be made giving the money to organizations rather than programs to help the small farmers. The three leaders object. They fear that the funds may go to dubious organizations that may use the money for purposes other than helping the small farmers.

Also, the high court has yet to decide on whether the 20 percent CIIF-SMC shares worth P37 billion should go to the coconut farmers or other parties. On this issue, there is another compromise proposal that endangers the possibility of the P37 billion going to small coconut farmers. It was also opposed by the three leaders. These leaders though can easily be out-voted in the 13-person UCPB board, they can officially record their stand. They can also make the UCPB board decisions transparent, the way Yorac had advocated.

Conclusion

Many say that the three new directors are being appointed to replace the three leaders precisely to agree with the compromise settlements that are very disadvantageous to the small coconut farmers. In addition, they will block transparency by keeping the UCPB proceedings confidential.

This may be unfair. The new directors may continue Yorac's legacy, support the small farmers, and provide continuing transparency for this critical process, affecting at least P87 billion.

The Alyansa Agrikultura's 39 federations and organizations had unanimously stated in their published common agri-fishery agenda that the coco levy should be "declared as a special fund for coconut farmers." It is hoped that the new directors pursue this goal. If they do otherwise, they betray not only Yorac's legacy, but the 20 million Filipinos affected by the coconut levy. The small coconut farmers have a right to know what will happen. They, together with the three replaced leaders, have pledged that they will keep watch.

(The author is Agriwatch chair; former Cabinet secretary for Presidential Flagship Programs and Projects, and former undersecretary for agriculture, and trade and industry. For inquiries and suggestions, email agriwatchphil @ yahoo.com or telefax 8516635)

CEB increases frequency by 75%

CEBU PACIFIC WILL MOUNT MORE DOMESTIC flights to accommodate the surge of passengers during the holiday rush and availing of the airline's 'Go' fares, which raised bookings by 90 percent just days after they were launched last week.

Starting Dec. 6, CEB will fly every day from Cebu to Zamboanga instead of the usual five flights per week, and double to eight times per week its Manila-Kalibo service. Fares start at P998 for Cebu-Zamboanga and P888 for Manila-Kalibo.

On Dec. 7, the Davao-Zamboanga service will be increased from four round-trip flights a week to daily flights with fares starting at P998; the Manila-Roxas service will also be increased from four round-trip flights a week to daily flights, with fares starting at P688; and the Manila-Tagbilaran flights will go up to 14 times a week from 11, with fares starting at P1,188.

By Dec. 9, CEB will also resume its daily Manila-Puerto Princessa flights with fares as low as P888.

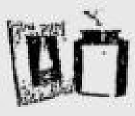
The additional flights are equivalent to a 75 percent increase in frequency for the routes mentioned.

"We have seen a considerable increase in demand brought about by the launch of the 'Go' fares, so we will add frequencies to specific destinations in time for the holiday peak. With this, we will be able to offer more 'Go' fares and accommodate more travelers this holiday season and throughout 2006," Bong Mojica, CEB general manager said.

"We advise travelers to book early to get these great 'Go' fares," he said.

PaSALAMAT, Galing sa Puso...

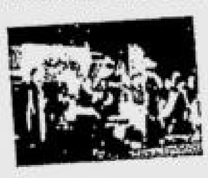
PaSALAMAT sa nagawang MaGALING
our reasons for thanksgiving



• Jan.2005. The Anvil Award of Excellence for Special Event Category was awarded to GPM for its first Pamaskong Galing Pilipino: Light-a-Tree for Unity Fund Drive, which was staged last December 2003.

• Jan. 2005. GPM's good news about the Philippines campaign to encourage our overseas "kababayans" to re-discover our rich heritage and traditions of hospitality thru GPM Bisita Pilipinas Program was highly commended by local and international media in the 3rd Global Filipino Networking Convention in Cebu City.

• March 2005. GPM received a fund grant from the Peace and Equity Foundation to launch the project Galing Pilipino TV, seeking to propagate a climate of hope and good news in today's Philippine television. Procter & Gamble and Chowking lead the sponsorship.



May 2005. GPM's "Yugyog Tugtog Pinoy" (a unique fusion of contemporary and indigenous dance music) concert tour with UP's Kontemporaryong Gamelan Pilipino (Kontra-Gapi) was warmly received in the cities of Butuan, Cabadbaran and Cebu.

June 12, 2005. Celebrating Independence Day and GPM's 3rd Anniversary, 12 simultaneous GP Kapihans were staged nationwide by GP youth volunteers. GP role models featured were: SEA Games track and field title-holder Arnel Ferrera (GP Kapihan-Baguio), 13 year old honest kid who returned PhP1 million to Taiwanese investor, Ma. Melissa Rivera (GP Kapihan-Manila) and Butuan historian who retold the story of his city being in the seat of early Philippine civilization, Greg Hontiveros (GP Kapihan-Caraga).

Aug. 2005. GPM-produced Panatang Makabayan started airing in Ayala Cinemas, Robinsons Cinemas and all KBP-member TV stations which aims to re-awaken our sense of civic duty and national pride.This TV ad project is in partnership with KBP, Inquirer, Chowking and Victoria Court Group.

Aug 21-28. National Heroes Day week-long celebration by GPM featured: visit to Tandang Sora Shrine in Quezon City; a 1-hour radio special over DZRH recounting historic events leading to establishment of our first republic; Yugyog Tugtog Pinoy Concert at Marikina Riverbanks Mall and GP Kapihan in Chowking-Pioneer about "Galing-Magiting" men in uniform.

Nov. 2005. Galing Pilipino Young Leaders Camp, where 80 youth leaders from around the country gathered for a 3 day team building and planning workshop to strenghten volunteerism capacities to help develop community-based enterprises in GPM Bisita Pilipinas sites in Marikina, Tarlac, Pampanga, Bataan, Butuan and Boracay.

Let's Propagate GALING

GPM Founder / President Erly de Guzman leads the movement as a volunteer

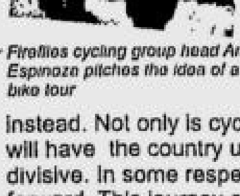
History bears out that the pre-colonial Pilipino was regarded as an honorable race. We were known for our business trading savvy (as the entrepot of Asia), our irresistible hospitality and our honorable character. Consider that despite our geographical smallness, no big power nation nearby ever colonized our land. Neither the Madjapahit Empires nor the Chinese dynasties nor the Japanese shogunates nor the Malacca Kingdoms were ever able to have dominion over our Bayang Magiliw. They valued us as worthy trading partners, who did business based on word of honor and honesty. We haven't heard of any war impinged on us because our 'galing' was regarded as 'gulang'. This being so, we ought to have something good and 'galing' in our heritage roots. Thank God for that. We have something to build on, to move this nation forward.

Let's de-construct our non-GALING PILIPINO mindset

Renowed Philippine Pre-history expert Dr. F. Landa Jocano exhorts GP Young Leaders

The problem with the Pilipino is not because he lacks resources, but because of his perceptions. Perception forms our personality, our personality dictates our attitude and it is our attitude that determines performance... For far too long, our history has focused on failures (*Fall of Bataan, etc*). How can we feel pride as a people when failure is constantly ingrained into our consciousness? We rallied our hereos despite lack of arms, and yet history brands them as *insurrectos* while the foreigners are glorified as heroes. It was a Pilipino who killed Lawton, and yet who do we name a plaza after? It was a Pilipino who killed the foreign invader; his name stands for a fish. We do not write our own history rather we conform to what others think of us. If we write our history in a positive light then our points of reference will also be positive. We will feel like we belong and our sense of belonging will give us pride. That, in turn, strengthens our commitment that builds a nation.

Let's re-write history LakBYKE GALING



· Fireflies cycling group head Anos Espinoza pitches the idea of a bike tour

The Mabuhay March on April 5-9, 2006 is a unique activity. It will be an educational-cultural bike tour that will retrace in reverse the grueling Death March by Pilipino and American WWII veterans. This event hopes to re-focus the values we observe when we celebrate the Death March. Rather than celebrating valor in defeat, LakBYKE GALING hopes that the values of solidarity and collective self-reliance will be given importance instead. Not only is cycling a good form of exercise. For once, this activity will have the country unite for something that is uplifting rather than divisive. In some respect, it is literally and figuratively moving the nation forward. This journey could very well begin to teach the Galing Pilipino youth how to right the wrongs of those who have gone before them. Each stop-beginning with Capas, Tarlac onto San Fernando, Pampanga and ending in Balanga, Bataan - will be a showcase experience of the GP Bisita Pilipinas program.

Galing Pilipino Movement's THANKSGIVING PARTY!

November 25, 2005 Friday
@ TIENDESITAS
Ortigas Avenue corner
E. Rodriguez C-5
Pasig City
6 - 9 pm

SALI KA NA!

Galing Pilipino rocks! Celebrate the uniqueness of the Pilipino in these events organized by GPM youth volunteers! Text 0917.835.4829 for confirmation or other details:

Galing Pilipino Youth Kapihan
November 26, 2005, Saturday, 1:30pm to 4:30pm
College of the Holy Spirit, Mendiola, Manila

GPM members from the College of the Holy Spirit stage a meaningful forum on "Ilabas ang Gilas: Iba Ka Pilipinas." Young archeologist Giovanni Bautista talks about our historic past, making it relevant to the youth of today. UP Kontra-Gapi gives a sampler of YugYog TugTog Pinoy dance-music. Plus! FEU Tamaraws share their secrets of winning this year's highly-coveted UAAP Championship!

Pamaskong Galing Pilipino (Light-a-Tree for Unity 2005)

December 16, 2005
Friday, 6pm to 9pm
San Lorenzo Park, Luneta
(in between Grandstand and Rizal Monument)

PGP Light-a-Tree for Unity 2005 is a unique fund drive that uses giant Christmas trees and bulbs as medium of donation for the following causes: English Proficiency Scholarship, Micro-Finance Fund, Bisita Pilipinas, EduCorps Fund for Volunteer Teachers, and CareGiver Centers. The "donated" trees and bulbs will brighten up Luneta during the Christmas holidays starting on the night of Simbang Gabi.**On December 16, 2005, at exactly 7PM Manila time, every Pilipino, wherever he may be around the globe, will be enjoined to sing "Pasko Na Naman" to serenade the world and to offer a prayer for peace. Text your Pinoy friends around the world to be part of this "Pamaskong Alay sa Mundo, Galing Sa Pilipino!"**

Yes, I am proud of my Filipino heritage. Sign me in as a member of the Galing Pilipino Movement!

Name
Address
Telephone No. Mobile No:
Occupation
Office Address
Email Address

☐ Yes, I am interested in joining Galing Pilipino activities!
☐ [illegible]

Please fax application form to telefax 633.1089 or email to kwento@galingpilipino.com with Membership Application as subject. Thank you.

Makilisa sa Galing Pilipino Movement!
GPM Foundation Inc.
Unit 252 Cityland Pioneer Condominium
Pioneer Street, Mandaluyong City
Tel. (+632)631.3932; Telefax. (+632)633.1089
Mobile. 0917.835.4829; E-mail. kwento@galingpilipino.com
url: www.galingpilipino.com

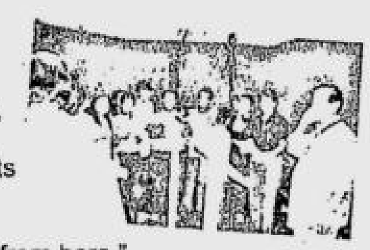
Ibang klaseng GALING ito!

"After the GPM Young Leaders camp, I would commit to uphold the "galing" in me and my fellow Filipinos by:
(1) making sure that I would do my best to show my "galing",
(2) encourage fellow Filipinos to also do the same,
(3) practice good Filipino traditions, and find channels to show my creativity."

- Joshua Young, 15 years old
Jubilee Christian Academy, Quezon City

"Our reader, Atty. Celia Valdez, recently witnessed and sent us a photo of a Galing Pilipino celebration aboard SuperFerry and said it was a revelation of how 'cool' and 'galing' our sariling atin can be. Kids and adults in that session learned to appreciate our indigenous instruments and native dances."

- Ding Reyes, Editor
LightShare Digest



"After listening to DZRH (through the internet) where GPM was featured, I got interested in joining GPM. I have also visited its website and have gotten more interested. I hope I can join the organization from here."

- Lala Curbi, Kronetorpsgatan 74B
212 27 Malmo, Sweden

"I am committed to help GPM by establishing a GPM youth group in my place, the city of Golden Friendship Cagayan de Oro City!

- Karl Jude G. Boo,
14 years old
Abba's Orchard School,
Cagayan de Oro City

"Being in the GPM Young Leaders Camp 2005 has empowered me more to do something better and worth emulating in my society. GPM has been consistent in promoting our rich culture, our values and traditions and the world-renown greatness of the Pilipino in various fields. The camp has re-instilled in my mind the value of loving our own heritage, our own people and our own country."

- Francis George Diza
Student Council Chairperson UP Mindanao

PaSALAMAT, Galing sa Puso Nila

"I have recently read about GPM ... I truly believe that this significant undertaking would spur the best values deeply rooted in each one of us, for our greater goal of earning self-respect and the respect of the world."

- Wenzel Cabotaje Azprec, 23 yrs. old
Santo Rosario, Pateros, Metro Manila

"My friends and I have been thinking of ways we can help cultivate a sense of nationhood, pride in ourselves as Pilipinos and positive outlook. I'm glad there's a group like GPM that is actually doing something about it, and that there are like-minded individuals who see the potentials of every Filipino. This way, achieving our common goals should be easier."

- Maharlika Mirasol III
Dagupan City, Pangasinan

GPM BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Pedro Roxas
Erly de Guzman
Ramon Garcia
Akiko Thomson
Archie King
Bernie Liu
Nonoy Niles
Tito Panlilio
Ding Salvador
Vivian Yuchongco

For the 3 years you have shared with us in harnessing the "Galing" in the Pilipino, SALAMAT PO!: **24 Oras-GMA7, 2GO, Abba's Orchard School, ABC-5, ABS-CBN, AC Nielsen, Adamson University, Advertising Suppliers Association of the Philippines, ANC, Asia Pacific College, Aus-Aid PACAP, Ayala Land, Ayala Port, Balanghai Hotel, Baliuag University, Banco de Oro, Bandera, Bench, Best, Western Hotel, Bigkis Young Life, Boy Scouts of the Philippine, Bread from Heaven, Business World, Caltex, Cebu Daily News, Charisms Inc, Chateau 1771, Chowking Christian Values School, College of the Holy Spirit, Cosmos Bottling Corporation, Daily Tribune, DDB Philippines, Department of Tourism DWIZ,, Dinsmor Magnets, DZAS, DZRH, Far Eastern University, First Resources Management & Security Corporation, Fourth Dimension, Genesis Entertainment, Hotel La Corona, IBC-13, Image Dimensions, Inquirer Libre, Italianni's, Jasper Jean Transport, Johnson & Johnson, Jollibee, Joseph & Mary Academy-Laguna, Journal Group, Joy Table Sauce, Kamayan Restaurant, Kapisanan ng mga Brodkasters sa Pilipinas, Karaga Fashion Center, Katipunang Dakilahi, Kontemporaryong Gamelan Pilipino, La Purisima School, Lamolyan, Lapid's Chicharon, Makati City Government, Manila Broadcasting Company, Manila Bulletin, Marikina City Government, Marikina Dance Troupe, Masterpiece Choir, Max's Restaurant, Meralco, Mindcom, MMDA, Nancy Harrel, National Parks Development Committee, New World Travel Corporation, Peace & Equity Foundation, Penshoppe, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Philippine Institute of Communications & Electronics, Philippine Marketing Association, Philippine Star, Philippine Tourism Authority, Photoline, PIA-Baguio City, Polytechnic University of the Philippines, Procter & Gamble, Provincial Tourism Office-Agusan del Norte, RFG & Company, Riverbanks Mall, Rotary Club of Metro Butuan, Roxaco RPN-9, Safeguard, San Miguel Purefoods., Seryo Restaurant, Seven Arts Foto Center-Cebu, SK Federation of Manila, Smart Communications Inc., Splash Corporation, SSS, Star TV-Hongkong, Studio23, Sunlife of Canada (Philippines), Inc., Sunrise Christian School, Sunstar, SuperFerry, Telenetwork, The Key of J Trumpets, The Plaza, The World Bank, Thirsty Marketing-Cebu Tide, Tiendesitas, Tribal Missions Foundation, Unang Hirit-GMA7, United Architects of the Philippines, UP Cebu-Lahug Campus, UP Manila Chorale, UP Singing Ambassadors, UST Liturgikon, Victoria Court Group.**

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
KAGAWARAN NG PANANALAPI
KAWANIHAN NG RENTAS INTERNAS

November 17, 2005

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PUBLIC BIDDING NO. 05-008, 05-009, 05-010, 05-011

1. The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), through the General Appropriations Act for CY 2006 and/or CY 2005 continuing appropriations, intends to apply the sum of the following being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the fi

PUBLIC BIDDING NO.	NAME OF CONTRACT	ABC	NON-REFUNDABLE FEE
05-008	Standard Maintenance Service for two (2) units DOVER Passenger Elevator	Php 232,239.90	Php1,000.00
05-009	Rental Service of Photocopier Machines	1,985,500.00	1,985.50
05-010	Lease of Servers for BIR Unicenter-TNG	4,719,000.00	4,719.00
05-011	Pest Control Services	471,000.00	1,000.00

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

2. The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), now invites Bids from eligible bidders for the fi

PUBLIC BIDDING NO.	DESCRIPTION	DELIVERY/ CONTRACT DURACTION
05-008	Two (2) Dover Elevator Units Location: BIR-National Office Building Capacity: 1630 Kgs Speed: 350 meter per second Stops/Opening: 13	January 1, 2006 - December 31, 2006
05-009	Thirty Eight (38) units of Photocopier Machines Extra Heavy Duty 19 units Copy Speed: 60 copies per minute Max. Paper Size: 11" x 17" Features: Automatic Duplexing Unit (back to back); Automatic Exposure Select (AES); Automatic Magnification Select (AMS); Automatic Paper Selection (APS); Password feature Heavy Duty: 9 Units Copy Speed: 40 copies per minute Max. Paper Size: 11" x 17" Features: Automatic Duplexing Unit (back to back); Automatic Exposure Select (AES); Automatic Magnification Select (AMS); Automatic Paper Selection (APS); Password feature Medium Duty: 10 Units Copy Speed: 28 copies per minute Max. Paper Size: 11" x 17" Features: Automatic Exposure Select (AES); Automatic Magnification Select (AMS); Automatic Paper Selection (APS); Password feature	January 1, 2006 - December 31, 2006
05-010	Twelve (12) Servers according to the following Specifications Hardware: • Brand New Server • Branded Server With Dual Processor • Intel Xeon 3.06 Ghz (Hyper-Threading) • 512 KB L2 Cache • 2 GB ECC RAM • 1.44 MB Floppy Disk Drive • 48X CD-ROm Drive • 2 x 72 GB SCSI Hard Disk Drive (Hot plug and RAID 1 Configured) • Integrated ATI Rage XL Video Controller With 64 MB RAM or its equivalent • Hot Plug Redundant Power Supply • 2 X 10/100 T/X Network Interface Card or its equivalent • 15" SVGA Color Monitor • Keyboard • Optical Mouse • Uninterruptible Power Supply (1.5 KVA) Sofware: • Five (5) MS SQL Server 200 Standard Edition English MVL or MOLP (Microsoft Open License Program) • One (1) MS SQL Server Standard Edition 2000 English Media Kit	January 1, 2006 - December 31, 2006
05-011	1. Residual mist spraying with highly residual chemicals in breeding places, crevices, cracks, double walls, drainage areas, and other places that will effectively exterminate cockroaches, mosquitoes, flies, bugs, fleas, silverfishes, and crawling insects. 2. Application of rodenticides in breeding places, rat burrows and passageway. Provision of continuous supplies of raticides or rodenticides shall be applied at areas for treatment. Rat baits shall be located at chosen areas but must be carefully placed in order to avoid unnecessary exposure in the premises. 3. Outdoor and NOB basement fogging shall be done to exterminate mosquitoes and flies. Larvaecides, pesticides of oil - based chemicals shall be applied at areas within the premises to eradicate breeding places and infestation of mosquitoes and flies 4. Application of termicides on wooden portion of the structure to correct/prevent termite infestation. Application shall be performed by injection, drenching and/or gel baiting methods at cement and wooden crevices, cracks and other areas considered as termite entrance points and other areas where signs of termite infestation are present including demolition of termite mounds and necessary treatment	January 1, 2006- December 31, 2006

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of RA 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 and subject to Commonwealth Act 138. Only bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from BAC Secretariat, thru the Chief, Procurement Division at the address given below from 8:00 AM-5:00 PM starting November 21, 2005.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon cash payment to the BIR Cashier of a non-refundable fee in the amount stated above.
6. The Bureau of Internal Revenue will hold a Pre-bid Conference open to all interested parties at the *3/F Executive Conference Room, BIR-NOB, Diliman, Quezon City* on

PUBLIC BIDDING NO.	PRE-BID CONFERENCE	TIME
05-008	December 2, 2005	9:00 AM
05-009	December 2, 2005	9:00 AM
05-010	December 2, 2005	1:30 PM
05-011	December 2, 2005	1:30 PM

7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before

PUBLIC BIDDING NO.	DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF BIDS	TIME
05-008	December 14, 2005	9:00 AM
05-009	December 14, 2005	9:00 AM
05-010	December 14, 2005	1:30 PM
05-011	December 14, 2005	1:30 PM

All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security as stated in Section 22.1 of the Bid Data Sheet. Late Bids shall not be accepted

8. Bid opening shall be on the following dates at the *3/F Executive Conference Room, Bureau of Internal Revenue, NOB, Diliman, Quezon City*. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the above address

PUBLIC BIDDING NO.	BID OPENING	TIME
05-008	December 14, 2005	9:00 AM
05-009	December 14, 2005	9:00 AM
05-010	December 14, 2005	1:30 PM
05-011	December 14, 2005	1:30 PM

9. The Bureau of Internal Revenue assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid. The BIR also reserves the right to reject any or all bids and accept the bids most advantageous to the government.
10. The Bureau of Internal Revenue reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder/s

Bureau of Internal Revenue
Atty. James H. Roldan
Assistant Commissioner-Legal Service
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee
Rm. 605, 6/F Procurement Division
BIR-NOB, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. No. 9265547/Telefax No. 9282026
Email Address: bac@bir.gov.ph

(Sgd.) JAMES H. ROLDAN
Assistant Commissioner, Legal Service
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Nov 18 & 25 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION
PhilHealth Regional Office IV-B
#89 PSDC Bldg., P. Burgos corner Alegre Sts., Batangas City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

RE-BID OF COMPUTERS AND PRINTERS
ITB# PRO4B-05-003

The *PhilHealth Regional Office IV-B (PRO IV-B)* invites all interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Computers and Printers.

LOT NO.	PARTICULARS	UNITS	SPECIFICATIONS	APPROVED BUDGET
1	Desktop Computers	33	Ref. No. PRO4B-05001 (23 units) Ref. No. PRO4B-05002 (8 units) Ref. No. PRO4B-05003 (2 units)	1,900,000.00
2	Laserjet Printer	5	Ref. No. PRO4B-05004	100,000.00
3	Printer Dot Matrix	6	Ref. No. PRO4B-05005	180,000.00

Budget for the subject contracts for bid shall be sourced from the internal corporate operating budget (COB CY2005) of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation.

Bidding documents can be secured from the **BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT, ADMIN. DEPT, PhilHealth Regional Office IV-B, #89 PSDC Bldg., P. Burgos corner Alegre Sts., Batangas City**, during regular office hours from Nov. 25, 2005 to Dec. 14, 2005 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **two thousand one hundred eighty pesos (Php 2,180.00)**. A Pre-bid Conference will be held on Dec. 2, 2005 at 2:00 p.m. at the 3rd Floor, Conference Room.

Deadline for submission of bids will be on Dec. 15, 2005 on or before 11:00 a.m. to the BAC Secretariat at the Admin. Dept. Opening of bids will follow at 2:00 p.m. at the 3rd Floor, Conference Room. **Late bids will not be accepted.**

The BAC shall determine if each prospective bidder is eligible to participate in the bidding by examining the completeness of each prospective bidder's eligibility requirements or statements against a checklist of requirements, using **non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria.**

To guarantee the faithful performance by the winning bidder of his/her obligations under the contract prepared in accordance with the bidding documents, he/she shall post a Bid Security in any of the following forms and amount:

Form of Security	Minimum Amount in % of ABC to be Bid
Cash, Manager's Check, Cashier's Check, Irrevocable Letter of Credit or Bank Draft	One percent (1%) per lot
Bank Guarantee	One and a half percent (1.5%) per lot

For more information, contact the BAC Secretariat at Telephone no. **723-8822 local 201 & 204.**

PhilHealth reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) CIRILO C. BALMACEDA
Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Nov. 25 & Dec. 1, 2005)

PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE
Municipality of Katipunan
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

The Local Government Unit of Katipunan has applied a loan with the amount of P2.6M from the Land Bank of the Philippines, Dipolog City, and intends to purchase the following farm equipment:

One (1) **Unit Brand New Farm Tractor 4WD**
(88-90 Hp Range, 12x12 Transmission; Hydrostatic Power Steering; with ROPS and Canopy)

One (1) **Unit Trailing Harrow**
(18 pcs. of 24" diameter blades)

One (1) **Unit Disc Plow**
(4 pcs. of 26" diameter blades)

One (1) **Unit Wheeled Trailer**
(Dumping Type, 3-5 tons cap.)

The eligibility check/screening shall use non-discretionary "PASS/FAIL" criteria.

Schedule of Activities

Activities	Schedule
1. Pre-Bid Conference	Dec. 6, 2005, 9:00 A.M.
2. Last day of Submission of Eligibility Requirements	Dec. 12, 2005; 12:00 Noon
3. Eligibility Check	Dec. 12, 2005; 1:30 P.M.
4. Last Day of Submission of Bid Docs.	Dec. 20, 2005; 12:00 Noon
5. Opening of Bids	Dec. 20, 2005; 1:30 P.M.

Venue : Conference Room
Office of the Municipal Mayor
Katipunan, Zamboanga del Norte

Interested parties will be required to post a bid security in the form of cash, managers check, or Bank guarantee based on the schedule under Section 27 of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. 9184. The bid security of the winning bidder shall be substituted by a performance security to guarantee prompt, faithful and complete performance of its obligation. A two-envelope (Technical and Financial Proposal) bidding system will be adopted.

All bidders are required to pay a non-refundable amount equivalent to 1% of the Approved Budget of the Contract to the Municipal Treasurer to cover the expenses for the bid documents and other related activities for the conduct of the bidding process.

All bid documents shall be submitted to the name and address stated below:

The BAC Chairman
Through BAC Secretariat
Local Government Unit of Katipunan
Katipunan, Zamboanga del Norte

The committee reserves the right to accept or reject any bids, to annul the bidding process and to reject all Bids not in accordance with the provisions of R.A. 9184, at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders

For details, you may call the BAC Secretariat on cell nos. 0917-475-3465 or 0917-724-0959.

(Sgd.) ENGR. ZOSIMO C. PASCO
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI-November 18 & 25 2005)

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
P. O. Box 789, Manila, Philippines
6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Philippines
Tel. Nos. 632 4302; 632 4231; 632 4444; Fax No. 631-6899
Email: psantiago@adb.org, cjpanganiban@adb.org or ljpaterno@adb.org

INVITATION to PREQUALIFY for CONTRACT No. ADB/OAS-2005/060 (PROVISION of TRANSPORTATION SERVICES)

1. The Asian Development Bank ("ADB"), a multilateral development institution headquartered in Manila, Philippines, invites companies to apply for prequalification required in subsequent bidding exercise for the provision of transportation services for ADB Staff (hereinafter referred to as "Services").
2. It is expected that the Invitation to Bid for the bidding exercise will be issued no later than January 2006.
3. Prequalification is open to firms and voluntarily formed joint ventures from eligible member countries of ADB.
4. Interested eligible applicants may request further information by calling, writing or faxing, the Procurement and Contracts Administration Section, Institutional Services Division, Office of Administrative Services, Asian Development Bank at the contact address specified above starting from **9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**, during any working day.
5. The Contractor shall provide the number of chauffer-driven vehicles of late model and one vehicle dispatcher at ADB premises, required for transportation services. The scope of services is provided in detail in the Work Performance Statement to be given to interested applicants.
6. The Prequalification Documents may be obtained from the Procurement and Contracts Administration Section, Institutional Services Division, Office of Administrative Services, Room 1636 South, at the above address, from **28 November to 2 December 2005 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** Note that ADB will be observing Bonifacio Day on 30 November 2005.
7. Applicants will be required to submit two copies (marked "Original," and "Copy") of applications for prequalification each in a sealed envelope, which must be delivered either by hand or registered mail addressed to the attention of the **Head, Procurement and Contracts Administration Section, Institutional Services Division, Office of Administrative Services, Rm. 1636S**, Asian Development Bank, 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila, Philippines, **not later than 3:00 p.m., 9 December 2005**, and be clearly marked **"Application to Prequalify for Transportation Services"**.
8. Applicants will be advised, in due course, of the result of their applications. Only prequalified applicants shall be invited to participate in the bidding exercise to be conducted by ADB.
9. This Invitation does not entail any commitment on the part of ADB, either financial or otherwise. Any cost of preparation of the prequalification documents shall be borne solely by the applicant. ADB reserves the right to accept or reject any or all applications for prequalification.

Chairperson
Institutional Procurement Committee
Office of Administrative Services

Asian Development Bank ADB
FIGHTING POVERTY IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

(PDI - Nov 25 & 26, 2005)

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Maynila, Pilipinas

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project.

Name of Project/Brief Description :	One (1) lot - PC Maintenance and Management Services per BSP's Terms of Reference
Approved Budget for the Contract :	P10,000,000.00
Contract Duration :	One (1) year

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	November 24, 2005 to December 8, 2005 up to 2:00 p.m. only
2. Pre-bid Conference	December 9, 2005 at 2:00 p.m.
3. Opening of Bids	December 21, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.
4. Bid Evaluation	) These shall be in accordance with the
5. Post-qualification	) prescribed periods allowed in the
6. Notice of Award	) Implementing Rules & Regulations (IRR)-A of R.A. No. 9184 dated 10 January 2003

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P5,000.00 to the BSP Cashier.

The BSP assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The BSP reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **JUAN DE ZUÑIGA, JR.**
Chairman

(PDI - Nov. 25. 2005)

PORO POINT MANAGEMENT CORPORATION
A Subsidiary of Bases Conversion Development Authority

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Poro Point Management Corporation, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites Security Agencies to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder contract:

Name of Contract	PROVISION OF SECURITY SERVICES
Location	Poro Point Special Economic and Freeport Zone, Poro Point, San Fernando City, La Union
Brief Description	Provision of Security Services to PPMC within the Poro Point Special Economic and Freeport Zone
Approved Budget For the Contract (ABC)	P7,006,657.65
Contract Duration	One (1) year
Delivery Period	January 20, 2006 to January 20, 2007

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar contract within the last five (5) years with an amount of at least 50% of the above ABC, and should have key personnel and equipment (owned, leased or under purchase) available for the prosecution of the services. The list of minimum equipment requirement is indicated in the Eligibility Forms. The Eligibility Check/ Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR)

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows.

Activities	*Schedule*
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	December 8-9, 2005
2. Pre-bid Conference/Site Inspection	December 12, 2005
3. Opening of Bids	January 3, 2006
4. Bid Evaluation	January 4, 2006
5. Post-qualification	January 5-6, 2006
6. Notice of Award	January 20, 2006

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Seven thousand five hundred pesos (P7,500.00) to the PPMC Cashier.

PPMC assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation and submission of the bid.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) ATTY. ANTHONY C. MANGUIAT
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee
Vice President & COO

(PDI-Nov 25 & Dec. 2, 2005)

CALL POEA
24-HOUR HOTLINES
722-1144 or 722-1155

RIZAL EXPERIMENTAL STATION AND PILOT SCHOOL OF COTTAGE INDUSTRIES
Maybunga, Pasig City

List of Vacant Positions

(3) Teachers III: SG-12; Item Nos. TCH3-30347; 30348; 30353; Bachelor of Secondary Education or Bachelor's Degree plus 18 professional units in Education with appropriate major preparation; Two years of teaching experience; Eligibility: LET.

(2) Teachers I; SG-10; Item Nos. TCH1-54235; TCH1-54277 Bachelor of Secondary Education or Bachelor's Degree plus 18 professional units in Education with appropriate major preparation; No experience required. Eligibility: LET.

NOTICE OF LOST

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE FOLLOWING PROVISIONAL RECEIPT HAS BEEN LOST.

AVESCO MKTG. CORP.
SERIES OF 160504-160550

KIPCOL INTERNATIONAL CORP.
SERIES NO. 0018-0050

TRANSACTIONS FOR THE ABOVE SERIES WILL NOT BE HONORED BY THE SAID COMPANIES.

(PDI - November 25, 2005)

To our valued clients:

Please be informed that the following Official Receipts have been reported missing, and are therefore rendered null and void by Pru Life UK:

0545498 / 0545499 / 0545500

Should anyone have information on the missing ORs, please call telephone numbers 884 5541, 884 5542 and 884 5543

Pru Life UK is an indirect subsidiary of Prudential plc a company incorporated in the United Kingdom ("Prudential plc") Neither Pru Life UK nor Prudential plc is affiliated with Prudential Financial Inc., a company whose principal place of business is in the United States of America

Pru Life UK and Prudential plc also have no connection to Prudential Life or Prudential Life Plans, two companies whose principal place of business is the Philippines

We're here to listen. PRU LIFE U.K.

SEND YOUR RESUMÉS INSTANTLY JOB Market ONLINE

Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer and visit it online at www.jobmarketonline.com

---

It's not who you are.

It's who you can become.

Be aware of your greatness.

Be all that you can be.

Personal Awareness and Leadership Seminar
Dec. 2, 3 & 4, 2005

PowerSpeak Inc.

call: 840-5958 • 840-5960
Mobile +63 917-555-JOEY (5639)
Email powerspeak@gmail.com
Visit www.powerspeakph.com

Unit 210 Cattleya Building
235 Salcedo Street
Legazpi Village
Makati City, Philippines

La Funeraria Paz - Sucat
Manila Memorial Park
NOW OFFERS
24 - HOUR
CREMATION SERVICES
820-1592 /825-9947

OBITUARIES

THE HERITAGE PARK
FORT BONIFACIO
Funeral Home and Crematory
845-2334 to 38; 845-2440

"I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." John 14:6

DEATH NOTICE

HERMINIA HUGO-CORDEZ

Died in the Grace of our Lord on November 16, 2005 at the age of 67.

Her remains lie in state at the family residence in Nabua, Camarines Sur.

Interment will be on November 27, 2005 at Nabua Cemetery after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at Holy Cross Parish.

"JESUS KING OF MERCY, I TRUST IN YOU"

Her children **William**, **Wilfredo Jr.**, **Winifred**, **Wilhelmina**, **Wilma**, **Winnie Mary** and **Anthony**; grandchildren; in-laws; sisters, **Cecilia**, **Visitacion**, **Emma**, and **Nenita**; brother **Avelino**, cousins, other relatives, and friends mourn the passing away of their beloved

GLORIA VILLANUEVA GALLARDO, RN

(of Tagudin, Ilocos Sur)

peacefully died in the grace of our Lord on her birthday, November 19, 2005, at the age of 77.

Please pray for the eternal repose of her soul. Funeral Mass will be on November 26, 2005 at the **BASILICA OF ST. JOSEPH**, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring...

INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

❶ Copy of Death Certificate;
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS • DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS • FREE OBIT DESIGN

MANUEL PECSON SANTIAGO

Former Mayor of Guagua, Pampanga
Peacefully joined his Creator at 3:00 a.m. on November 23, 2005 at the age of 65.

His loving wife, **Leleng**; children, **Cecile** & **Edgar**, **Noynoy** & **Joan**, **Louie**; grandchildren, **Toby**, **Manny**, & **Marian** and relatives request the pious readers to pray for his eternal rest and everlasting happiness.

His remains lie in state at his residence in Betis, Guagua, Pampanga and will be transferred to Guagua Municipal Hall on Friday, November 25, 2005 at 9:00 a.m.

Interment will be on Saturday, November 26, 2005 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at St. James Parish Church, Betis, Guagua, Pampanga.

CLASSIFIEDS

Jobz Employment Expo opens today

THE JOBZ EMPLOYment Expo 2005 which will be held today until tomorrow, Nov. 25-26, at the Expo Centro of the Araneta Center, Cubao Quezon City was able to convince world's leading call centers to join the two-day recruitment and selection event.

Convergy's, Teletech and Sykes Asia were the early Business Outsourcing Companies to signify their intention to join the job expo. A total of more than 4,000 call center professionals are needed by these companies and they expect a higher percentage of recruits in this event.

Boosted by its strategic location along the major thoroughfares, the Jobz Employment Expo at the Expo Centro of the Araneta Center aims to attract quality applicants from the major Quezon City villages and universities, the nearby suburbs, and nearby provinces of Central and Northern Luzon.

For more details about the event, please contact Philtrade Exhibits at 8250804 or 8253482 or text 09208766505 or 09178557137.

National Power Corporation

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Republic of the Philippines

NPC, MMSD 2005-027

Genset rental & various Spare Parts for NPC Small Power Utilities Group

1. The NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION (NPC), through its approved Corporate Budget of CY 2005 intends to apply the sum of (Please see schedule under Item No. 9) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract listed below. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. NPC now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for GOODS listed below. Delivery of the GOODS is required by the date indicated in the bid documents. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino Citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who shall determine as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from NPC and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM, from Monday to Friday. Issuance of Bidding Documents shall start on November 18, 2005 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Monday to Friday. No Bid Documents shall be issued on the date of bidding.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount listed below. The method of payment will be cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. NPC will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on dates listed below at the designated NPC function rooms.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address as listed in the Bid Documents on or before the dates stated below. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form as stated in the Bid Documents. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on the dates specified hereunder at the designated NPC function rooms. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
9. ITEMS FOR BID

Schedule	Date/Time & Place of Bidding	Item Description	PR No/Inquiry No.	ABC (In Pesos)	Bid Docs Price
I	December 16, 2005 10:00 A.M. Hanraya Room	Rental of one (1) 500kw Genset for Kalamansig Diesel Power Plant	PB051216-MMAM3925 HO-LEB-05-0133	1,650,000.00	P 550.00
II		Parts for LFO Purifier SJ 30T for 14.4 MW Power Barge 106	PB-051216-MMAM3926 VR-PB6-05-106	2,193,760.00	P 1,100.00
III		Parts for HFO Purifier SJ 40T for 14.4 MW Power Barge 106	PB051216-MMAM3927 VR-PB6-05-107	2,771,580.00	P 1,100.00
IV		"GM" Spare Parts for Marinawa Diesel Power Plant	PB040610 MMAD0958 (PB3 SL-MCD-04-0050	4,529,600.00	P 1,100.00

NOTE : A Pre-Bidding Conference will be held for the following bidding schedules:

Schedule	Date	Time	Place
Schedule I – IV	Dec. 2, 2005	2:00 P.M.	Old Peñafrancia Room

10. NPC reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
THE BAC, MMSD – SECRETARIAT
Materials Management Department, Materials Management Services Division
Agham Rd., cor. Quezon Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel No. 921-3190, 921-3541 loc. 5599 & 5477
mitriñanes @ napocor.gov.ph
Fax No. 921-3190
http://www.napocor.gov.ph

LORENZO S. MARCELO
Chairman, BAC-MMSD

(PDI – November 18 & 25, 2005)

UNDP

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Contracting of Consulting Services for Project ID 00047125 - Integrated Programme for the Empowerment of Indigenous Peoples and Sustainable Development of Ancestral Domains (IP-EIPSDADS)

The Development Support Services Center (DSSC) of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the subcontract of the project *"Integrated Programme for the Empowerment of the Indigenous Peoples and Sustainable Development of Ancestral Domains".*

The Republic of the Philippines through the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) has received grant fund from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the New Zealand Agency for International Development (NZAID) for IP-EIPSDADS in support of the full and effective implementation of Republic Act 8371, otherwise known as the "Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (IPRA) of 1997", in particular through the formulation of the Ancestral Domain Sustainable Development and Protection Plans (ADSDPPs) in selected ancestral domain areas. The project aims to improve the development of IP communities and their Ancestral Domains (ADs) through the formulation and effective implementation of ADSDPPs; increase the capacity of IP communities for self-governance and more sustainable management of resources; increase the capacity of IP communities as well as relevant institutions such as the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), Local Government Units (LGUs), and Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) in policy formulation and project design, implementation and management in support of the development of IPs through the ADSDPP process.

To be able to attain said objectives, the project requires the services of consulting firm who shall facilitate the preparation and packaging of ADSDPPs or IP Community Plans for the IP communities/households in accordance with the provisions of the IPRA and ADSDPPs.

For interested parties, Bid Documents (Eligibility Requirements, Instructions to Bidders and Terms of Reference) may be secured personally, upon payment of a non-refundable amount of PhP 1,000.00 each from the following address :

Development Support Services Center
United Nations Development Programme
30/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza
6819 Ayala Avenue cor. Sen Gil Puyat Ave.,
Makati City 1226 Philippines
Tel Nos. (632) 9010100 Fax Nos. (632) 9010200/(632) 8897177

The abovementioned Bid Documents will be released to all interested parties starting 28 November to 2 December 2005 only. The Bid Documents shall contain all instructions on the rules, procedures, dates and other schedules for the pre-bid conference and opening of bid envelopes, as well as further details on the scope of services required

UNDP reserves the right to reject any or all the bids, waive any defect or informality therein, accept the bid and award the contract to the most advantageous offer to the UNDP, for and in behalf of the Department of Agrarian Reform. UNDP assumes no responsibility to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expense or loss that may be incurred for the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) ETHELIND B. CAPUNO
Manager, DSSC

(PDI- November 25, 2005)

Non-wage benefits include shuttle bus, Rolling Stores, and 'Botika ng Bayan'

LABOR SECRETARY PATRICIA A. STO. TOMAS said in a news conference recent that the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), and Finance (DOF) are pushing efforts to ensure non-wage benefits for minimum wage earners including possible exemption from income tax, access to low-priced commodities, and free transportation to and from workplaces of employees.

"We are scheduled to meet today with Finance secretary Margarito 'Gary' Teves to iron the conditions on these matters with the other agencies involved in the effort," Sto. Tomas said.

She said that such benefits are necessary even as the Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Boards (RTWPBs) have already granted adjustments in the minimum wage last July following the spate of oil price increases, which is considered a "supervening event" in anticipation of the implementation of the expanded value added tax (E-VAT).

"It is very difficult for the government to declare two supervening events in a single year," Sto. Tomas emphasized. She said that workers apparently recognized this as indicated by the absence of any formal wage petition for this year following the July 2005 wage hikes.

Sto. Tomas said that in lieu of a wage hike, the non-wage benefits being considered by the government include the possible exemption of minimum wage earners from income tax, which shall be jointly taken up by the DOLE and the DOF.

She said that negotiations spearheaded by the DOLE are ongoing with other government agencies on other possible, significant benefits that may be set in place.

Sto. Tomas said the DOLE and the DOF are also pushing to facilitate access to possible concession loans from Government Financing Institutions (GFIs), particularly the Land Bank of the Philippines, and Development Bank of the Philippines, to companies to enable them to purchase buses for the free transportation of their workforce.

She added that access to basic goods including rice, sugar, oil, veggies, and meats, shall also be strengthened through the increased strategic placement of the Rolling Stores of the National Foods Authority (NFA) in Metro Manila and other areas.

Furthermore, the expansion of the NFA Rolling Stores will be complemented by the "Botika ng Bayan" to provide workers with low-cost, quality medicines as necessary, along with other possible measures, the Labor chief said.

"It is possible that before the month passes, if the terms and conditions on the part of the agencies that shall primarily facilitate these benefits have been ironed, then these are ready for activation," Sto. Tomas said.

Sto. Tomas bared these developments during the launching of a landmark program Monday to strengthen voluntary arbitration (VA) and alternative disputes resolution (ADR), to professionalize the country's corps of voluntary arbitrators, and build on the country's industrial peace achievement.

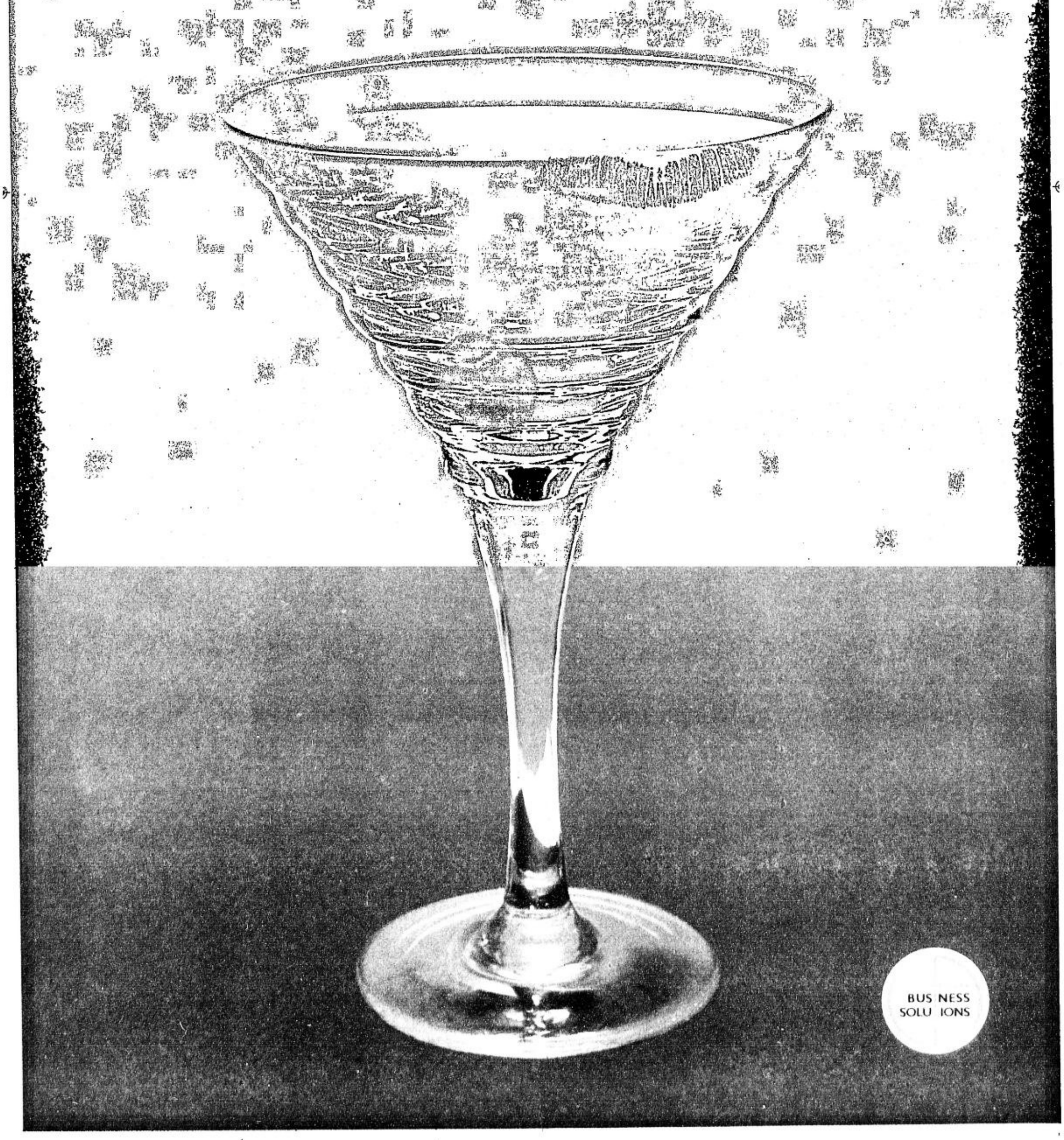
She said two key DOLE agencies, the National Conciliation and Mediation Board (NCMB) and the National Labor Relations Commission (NLRC), are set to forge a memorandum of agreement (MOA) to strengthen conciliation-mediation, and assist labor and management parties in avoiding costly and litigious compulsory arbitration.

AN AFFAIR IN

RED

AND A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

PLDT GIVES BACK TO FRIENDS AND PARTNERS
WHO HAVE HELPED REALIZE THE PLDT VISION
AT THE 2005 PASASALAMAT NIGHT



BUS NESS
SOLU IONS

BUSINESS Friday

E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

Women rule the market place

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

WOMEN ARE NOW THE LARGEST AND MOST influential consumer group controlling over 80 percent of the household buying decisions, stated Michelle Kristula Green, president of Leo Burnett Asia Pacific at the recently concluded 19th Philippine Advertsing Congress.

A local network may not have undertaken as wide and as in depth a study as Hemisphere did but its conclusions are the same.

GMA Network president Felipe Gozon says when they studied the demographics of local TV viewers, they discovered that the biggest viewers are women, who also happen to be the number one buyers.

GREEN

Thus their decision to gear their new channel toward the women market.

GMA Network acquired the rights to run the programs of Channel 11 which they renamed to QTV—or Quality TV. Channel 11 is owned by Eddie Villanueva, the charismatic leader who ran and lost during the 2005 presidential elections.

Gozon boasts QTV already occupies the No. 3 spot, next to ABS-CBN with GMA at the top. But he admits it was not a big feat because the other stations had one percent or less than one percent ratings.

Gozon adds the the decision to focus on women was further boosted by the profile of TV's top advertisers—shampoo, laundry soap and body soap—all targeting women primarily.

The target is to eventually make QTV the No. 1 TV station in the country.

Asked if QTV might cannibalize or take away the advertisers and the audience of GMA, Gozon is confident it will not.

"There is no cannibalization. This is but simple arithmetic. What they get from us is zero from others. You can't stretch time," he explains.

TV stations' ability to get more advertising revenues is limited by the fact that there are only 24 hours in a day. Unlike the print media, where pages can just be added to accommodate advertisements, time is an finite source in a 24-hour spectrum.

The solution for this is another TV channel where one can sell ad space in.

The further advantage of GMA is they did not have to set up new facilities for QTV, only a new transmitter.

And with the P2 billion net income expected by the network (GMA) this year, Gozon says they plan to set up two state of the art studios that can accommodate a 1,000 to 1,500 audience.

"This will increase our capability to make content," he says.

He says an independent TV show producer which produces shows for Korean *telenovelas* has tapped GMA to produce some of these shows.

"This is in recognition of our talents," says Gozon.

Meantime Gozon says they conducted an in-house study on the effect of too much TV commercials on viewership and their conclusion shows that some commercials even rate higher than the program.

They had no explanation for this but he notes, "I watch my *apos*—and they watch the commercials."

He adds the industry study conducted by the Adboard on this issue was inconclusive.

Meantime in an interview after her talk at the ad congress, Green of Leo Burnett says the challenge in Philippine advertising is "defining what that voice is and getting it into advertising" referring to that cultural factir or insight that has been the reason for the success of many ad campaigns in Thailand and India.

"You have to resonate it in advertising. How to use emotion and use it to make people feel closer to the brand," she says.

However she admits that advertisers and ad agencies tend to follow the safer routes.

"Advertising tends to lag society. We should have the courage to do new things," she says.

The findings of the "Miss Understood—She's not buying your ads (Asian)" of Leo Burnett include:

Asia accounts for nearly half of the world's female market with around 1.5 billion women—500 million of these are in China and another 500 million in India.

Forty-five percent of women in developed Asia and 41 percent in developing Asia are employed (from the Roper Reports Worldwide)

Forty percent of all travelers in the Asia-Pacific region are women (MasterCard International survey).

Sixty-one percent of women in the Philippines find most advertisements aimed at women patronizing in the way they talk to them.

Thirty-eight percent of women in the Philippines find women portrayals in media and advertising degrading.

Sixty-nine percent of the women believed that women played a role in the family's investments and banking options while 37 percent said that banking ads don't address the female influence.

Fifty-four percent of women in the Philippines admitted to having made an expensive impulse purchase within the last three months.

GOZON: Going after the female buyers

Ad industry's best works shine at Araw

By Aries Espinosa and Marj Magno

CEBU CITY—THE ARAW AWARDS, which capped the 19th Philippine Advertising Congress, was brimming with global possibilities. The categories, the jury, the ceremonies and even the host echoed the congress "Ready for the World?!" theme.

The Araw Awards held Saturday night at the grand ballroom of the Waterfront Hotel in Lahug is considered the most prestigious in the local advertising circuit, recognizes the most creative and innovative advertisements from print, television, radio, and multimedia. Araw awardees are given the opportunity to vie for international awards such as the Cannes Lions in France and at the Clio Awards.

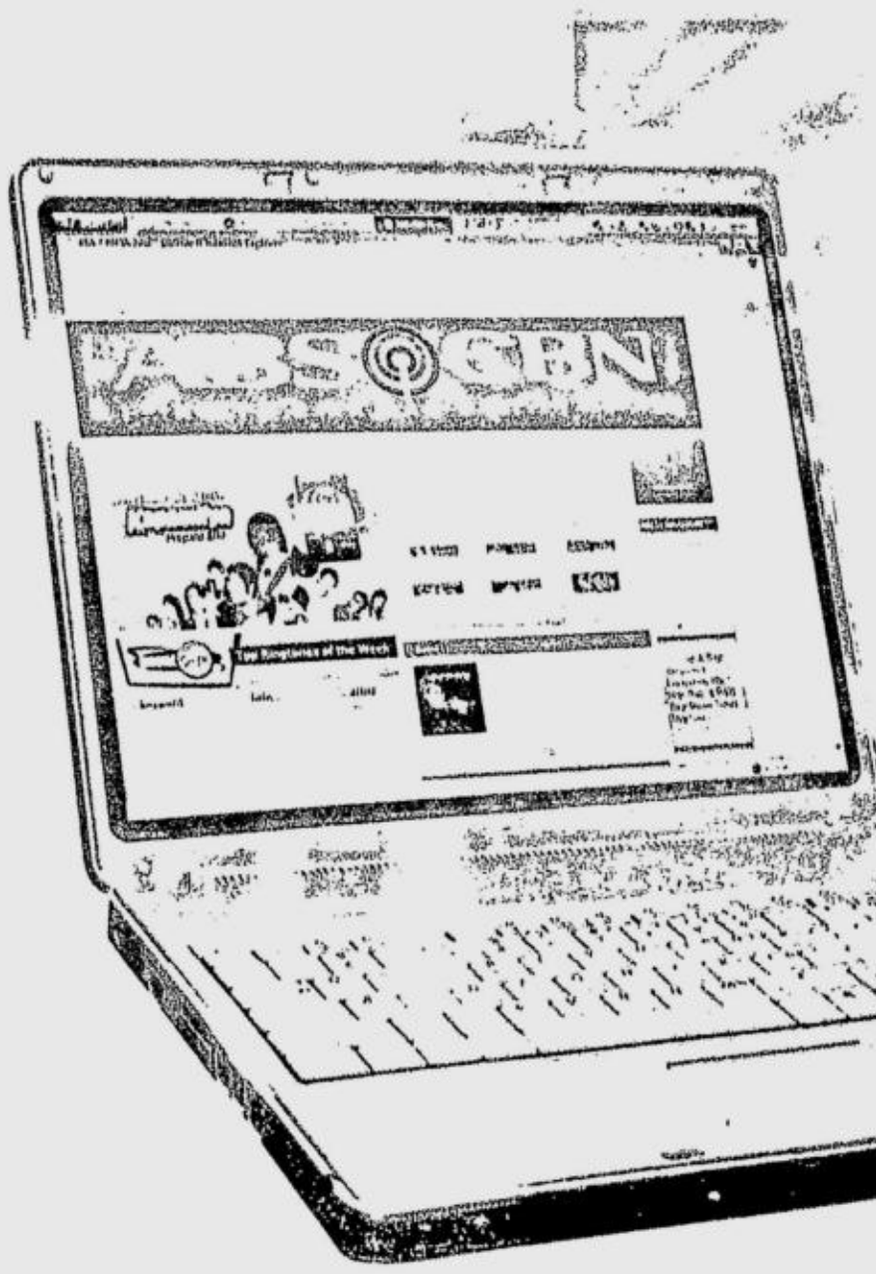
INQUIRER president and CEO Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, fresh from "captaining" a pre-Araw Awards cocktail to the thousands of delegates via a simulated

AD INDUSTRY'S/ B2-2

Microsoft

"With **SQL Server 2005, ABS-CBN Interactive** has doubled its customer response rate."

- Eugene Paden
Chief Information Officer
ABS-CBN Interactive



1.5 million records per day.

2 terabytes of data.

Ad hoc reporting in minutes.

8 times faster data mining process.

ABS-CBN Interactive is now enjoying a new standard in business intelligence.
Find out how you can, too.
Visit www.microsoft.com/sql

Microsoft SQL Server 2005

Ad industry's best works...

From page B2-1

"commercial-flight-cum-interactive-entertainment-show," presented the P30,000 prize money to the winner.

After the parade, it was all down to business as the night's host, CNN anchor Veronica Pedrosa, called out the evening's Araw winners.

The awards drew to the Queen City top advertising agencies that vied for Araw metals of gold, silver and bronze. This year's Araw competitions did away with the platinums and only gave away the metals -- gold, silver and bronze. The highest awards is called, "The Grand Araw."

The night's biggest winner turned out to be Campaigns and Grey, which earned the only Grand Araw award for its "Tagalog Campaign" series of radio spots for Ligo Sardines. The radio spots humorously discussed the evolving Filipino language and how it adopts foreign words into its own vocabulary. Ligo of A. Tunchingco Trading was also later announced as the advertiser of the year. The Grand Araw is considered the best from the selection of gold winners in the awards.

Other entries that won gold were (for TV): BPI's "Images" by Hit Productions Inc and Joy Ultra's "Joy MTV" created by Big Idea (best in musical score); Pond's "Marrying Up" created by Unitel Productions (best in production design), Chowking's "Downpour" by Filmex (best in cinematography) and Chippy's "Rehearsal" created by Filmex for best direction. Childhope Asia's "Chalk" won for BBDO/Guerrero Ortega gold for best copy.

"Downpour" had also won Kodak Vision's best in cinematography engineering award handed out before the Araw awardees were called.

Surf's "Hanapbuhay" by Lowe Inc. and Halls' "Wrapper" from JimenezBasic won gold for best copy.

For print, Gatsby's "Brian and Rocio" of TBWA/Santiago Mangada Puno, and Childhope Asia's "Chalk Series" created by BBDO/Guerrero Ortega won the gold for best art direction.

For radio, Samsung's "Championship Belt" from Sound Designs Production, 19th PAC's "Per DTI" created by Adfarm, Perla's "Touching Moments" created by Sound Design, and Globe's "Wish", also from Adfarm, won the gold for best sound design.

Perla's "Daughter" created by Leo Burnett Manila, Ligo's "Chugs", "Haller", "Tagalog" and "Manash" by Campaigns and Grey, KFC's "Demo" by TBWA/Santiago Mangada Puno, the 19th PAC's "Per DTI" by Adfarm, and AMA's "Wrss Wrss" by Campaigns and Grey won the gold for best copy.

iLeo's "Birth" by Arc Worldwide earned the gold for design and interactive category.

Childhope Asia's "Bunso" TV ad, created by BBDO/Guerrero Ortega, did not win a gold Araw. This spot, however, had already earned for the Philippines the first silver award in the Cannes Lion in France this June.

During the awards, Pedrosa had announced that the screening panel composed of mostly foreign jurors had gone over 2,740 entries, of which 347, or 13 percent, were deemed finalists.

World-ready ads shine

Lilit Reyes, co-chair of the competition said that some categories were expanded while a few were collapsed or even deleted to create a roster that is more similar with those of international advertising awards like Cannes in France and the Adfest in Thailand.

Unlike previous awards, there were no production numbers except those from local band Bamboo and Barbie Almalbis at the beginning and ending of the show.

World-class Jury

This year's awards also took pride in its jury, who are award-winners themselves here and abroad. To be applauded for elevating the selection process were the jury heads: Todd McCracken, Regional Creative Director —Asia Pacific of Grey Global Group; Peachy Pacquing, Regional Creative Director GBU, Grey Worldwide; Ramon "Mon" Jimenez, Jr., Joint Chief Executive Officer of Jimenez Basic Advertising; Jureeporn Thaidumrong, Founder/Executive Creative Director of JEH United in Bangkok, Thailand; Micky Domingo, Vice-President and Executive Creative Director of McCann-Erickson Philippines; John Merrifield, Chief Creative Officer, Regional Creative Director of TBWA\Tokyo and Prasoon Joshi, Regional Creative Director, South and South East Asia of McCann Erickson India Ltd.

During her closing speech, 19th PAC chair Meryl Graham-Schlachterman thanked her executive committees, the student volunteers from Manila and Cebu, and the delegates for creating what has been considered the most well-attended advertising congress to date.

After her closing remarks, she formally turned over of the symbolic Ad Congress wreath to Advertising Board of the Philippines chair Raul Alvarez, who then handed over the wreath to 4As chair Tom Banguis. The 4As will host the 20th Advertising Congress in 2007.

After the solemn turnover rites, the ABC 5 blimp, as it had done countless of times during the congress, hovered over the slowly departing crowd one last time to drop the last set of iPod Nanos for the event. Afterwards, petite pop rocker Barbie Almalbis began her set for the night, and this stopped the well-dressed delegates trooping to the exit, and made them grab their camera phones and rush back to the front of the stage. What an "uncongress Congress" it has truly been.

Passion over career

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

(Last of two parts)

FOOD, ANTIQUES, NOVELTIES, plants and clothes are just some of the proudly Filipino-made products sold at Tiendesitas, the latest retail development of Ortigas and Co.

Continuing from last week, Business Friday features here some more entrepreneurs that got a major break into the retail market through Tiendesitas.

Una

Jovy Gongora was once connected with a fashion magazine, while Marlon Bata was into other lines in fashion.

The two friends who share a passion for fashion put their skills together some years back to put up a T-shirt store and eventually Una, its store at Tiendesitas catering to fashion-conscious individuals.

"We cater to the urban female who enjoys dressing, who likes to have fun with her clothes," Gongora says.

They take their strength from Gongora's own love for fashion and Bata's experience in the clothing industry.

Una is filled with clothes bought from local and foreign buying sorties, from shawls to skirts and blouses.

Gongora says Una does not want to sell too much of an item even if it sells well to protect its consumers with a highly developed sense of individualism.

They are also not religious followers of fashion trends.

Gongora and Bata used to hold other jobs while tending Una, but the business became so busy that they both quit their day jobs and concentrated all of their resources on Una.

First it was just Bata, but Gongora soon followed. The trade-off has been worth it.

"We like it here because we are all starting out here. We are on an even playing field," Gongora says.

Sulyap sa Nakalipas

Gil Castro had an enviable career in the cash management division of Deutsche Bank, yet he traded it in for a business built around his passion for antiques.

Castro has been hooked on antiques since he bought his first antique sala set 15 years ago to go with his new house.

He was just buying for himself, but before he knew it, he had accumulated a treasure trove of antique pieces that he started selling off through bazaars five years ago.

"I did well and I found myself really enjoying it," he says.

He still kept his day job at Deutsche Bank but he said that selling antiques was more fulfilling, such that antiques became his work and Deutsche Bank, his sideline.

Then the offer came to put up another store in Tiendesitas and he immediately grabbed at the opportunity.

This time, he went full steam ahead after finally quitting from Deutsche Bank in April this year.

"The first time I set foot on this place where my shop is, I felt a good vibe. That's when I decided to put up a store here," he says.

SULYAP sa Nakalipas' Gil Castro

He does not regret the decision, even if he drives around with a battered delivery van instead of the SUV he used to have when he was with the bank.

"This is all a dream come true," he says.

CAROL Usman of Kulintangan

Kulintangan

Most Filipinos' experience with products made in Mindanao is limited to home accent pieces made of brass, fashion accessories done by the T'boli tribe and tubaos from Davao.

Through Kulintangan, Carol Usman wants to show that Mindanao offers more than just these usual products.

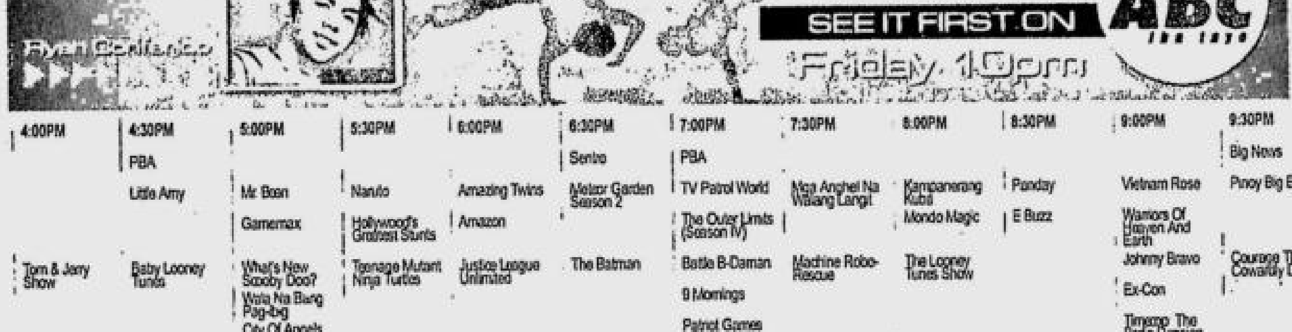
There's the bauls or trunks with mother of pearl inlays from her native Marawi City of Lanao del Sur.

It takes about 15 days, she says, for the workers to decorate one baul. Each is sold for about P15,000.

She also sells musical instruments, wooden home accent pieces, bags, fabrics and fashion accessories—all done by the different tribes of Mindanao, such as the Maranao, T'boli, Mandaya and Mansaka.

She says that by increasing demand for these products, the crafting tradition of the indigenous tribes of Mindanao will live on.

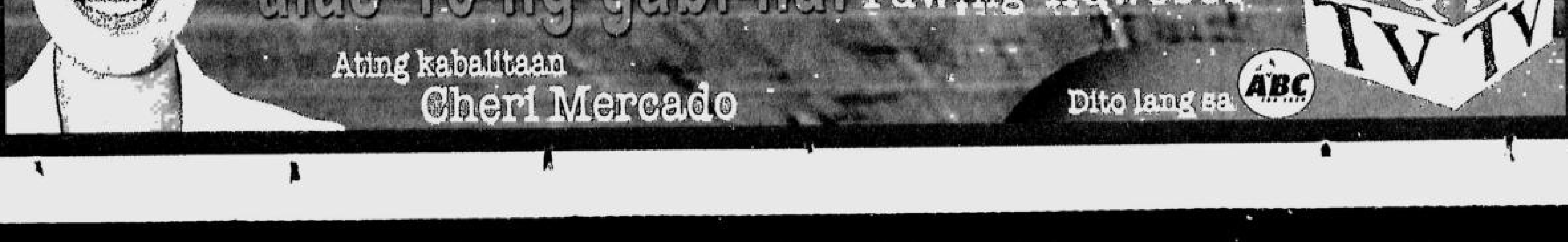
INQUIRER
TV GUIDE



ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5			Winner TV Shopping		PBA				Sentro	PBA					Big News	So You Think You Can Dance		Reel Stories	
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema				Little Amy	Mr Bean	Naruto	Amazing Twins	Meteor Garden Season 2	TV Patrol World	Mga Anghel Na Walang Langit	Kampanerang Kuba	Panday	Vietnam Rose	Pinoy Big Brother	Mastermind			Insider
AXN		The Contender Rematch Mora vs Manfredo				Gamemax	Hollywood's Greatest Stunts	Amazon		The Outer Limits (Season IV)		Mondo Magic	E Buzz	Warriors Of Heaven And Earth					Money Train
Cartoon Network	Yogi Bear Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	What's New Scooby Doo?	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles	Justice League Unlimited	The Batman	Battle B-Daman	Machine Robo Rescue	The Looney Tunes Show		Johnny Bravo	Courage The Cowardly Dog	Mike, Lu & Og	Time Squad	Justice League Unlimited	The Batman
Cinema One		Daddy's Little Darling				Wala Na Bang Pag-ibig				9 Mornings				Ex-Con				Kung Liligaya Ka Sa Piling Ng Iba	
Cinemax			Fever			City Of Angels				Patriot Games				Timecop: The Berlin Decision			Boa Vs Python (10:25PM)		
CNN		Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		Your World Today	
Discovery Channel		Power Zone				Wild Discovery		Deadliest Catch		The Most Extreme		American Chopper		Wild Science		Hyperspace With Sam Neil		Crime Night	
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Untalkative Bunny	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Lilo & Stitch	Sabrina, The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Brandy & Mr. Whiskers		Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Rangers	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN				Pool/ Snooker World Pool League '05		Goals!	LPGA Golf ADT C'ship				English Premier League Preview	Sportscenter Asia	Pool/ Snooker World Pool League '05		LPGA Golf ADT C'ship				Sportscenter Asia
ETC		Simple Life	Knock First	1 Hr Edited Version Of Today Show		Elimidate	Change of Heart	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	Arrested Development	GBB	Joan Of Arcadia		Average Joe		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
EWTN	The Word Was Made Flesh	Angelus (3:15PM)	The Donut Man	Angel Force	Suffering And The Love Of God	Rosary With Mother Angelica	Stations Of The Cross	EWTN Gallery	Super Saints	Life on The Rock Encore		Marriage Works In Christ	Defending Life	Daily Mass (SAP) Live		Angelus (10:15PM)	Holy Spirit In The Church	Father Corapi And The Catechism Of Catholic Church	
Fox News		Hannity & Colmes		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Fox & Friends						Fox News Live			
GMA 7	Kung Mamahalin Mo Lang Ako	Now and Forever	Romance	Dragonball Z	Slam Dunk		Frog Prince	24 Oras		Extra Challenge		Dama	Encantadia	Sugo	Jewel In The Palace	Bubble Gang			Saksi
Hallmark Channel	Bewitched	Judging Amy		HCA: The Fairytaler	Sesame Street		Who's The Boss	Bewitched	The Nanny	Family Law II		Judging Amy		Fielder's Choice			Wife Swap (10:35PM)		Family Law II (11:25PM)
HBO				Funny About Love (4:15PM)				Momentum			Starship Troopers 2			Identity			JFK		
IBC 13		EZ Shop		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Manny Pacquiao Sports Idol		Global Family Series		ME TV		SeaGames Special		King Of Adventure	IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
JackTV	Family Guy	Stripperella	The Sib Show	WWE Smackdown				Sweat	Just For Laughs (Gags)	Mad TV		Joe Schmo Show		TBA				Worst Case Scenario	
Lifestyle Network	Country Style	Interiors By Design	Decorating With Style	Decorating Cents	Molto Mario	Sweet Dreams	30 Minute Meals	Bill Boggs Corner	Unwrapped	Ming's Quest	Intimate Portrait		Behind The Velvet Ropes	Life & Style		Guess Who's Coming To Decorate		Iron Chef America	
MTV Philippines	MTV Hits	MTV Ask	Mush		Trippin	Pop Inc.		MTV Hits				Get Hitched	Get Spotted	Diyes		Wade Robson Project	Trippin	MTV Hits	VH1 Video Collections
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	OPM MYX		Star MYX	MYXILOG	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Club MYX	MYX Versions	Urban MYX	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX
National Geographic		TattooTouch, The Forgotten Sense		Sacred Skin		Top 5		Wow!		About Asia		Nat Geographic Specials		Amazing Moments		True Face Of Hurricanes			
NBN		Value Vision		New Life TV Shopping		Teledyaryo	Divas Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Sila?	GSIS Member's Hour		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		Teledyaryo				Kamao		Bantay OCW With Susan K	
Nickelodeon	Blues Clues/ What Planet Are You From	Rugrats	Hey Arnold!	My Life As A Teenage Robot/ Fight On Top	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Fairly Odd Parents	All That	Naturally Sadie	Romeo	Drake & Josh	The Fairly Odd Parents	All Grown Up	As Told By Ginger	Rocket Power	Chalkzone	The Wild Thornberrys	The Angry Beavers	The Brothers Garcia
PBO			Maging Sino Ka Man				Kanbas				Kasalanan Bang Sambahin Ka				PBO Fight Night				Sanggano't Sanggago
RPN 9	TV Shopping		Defenders Of The Earth	Hey Arnold!	Krusada Kontra Krimen		Global Battle Of The Bands	Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	WWE Smackdown		Cold Case		Medium		Newswatch Now	TV Greats On Friday		
SBN 21		New Life TV Shop						Winner TV Shopping				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Music Video		Oras Ng Himala	
Solar Sports		Chess Master MS Finals		FIVB World Champ Cup Men's Event: USA vs Ita				Phil 9-Ball Open Day3				Sports Desk		NBA Game Cavaliers @ Pacers					NBA Jam
Sports Plus				NFL 2005 Pittsburgh @ Baltimore			Inside the PGA			Ford 400 Highlights		Raceworld		Lock & Load II	BD Lake Powell	Inside the PGA	This Is The PGA Tour		Golf Hawaii 2004
Star Movies			Almost Famous (3:25PM)				The Truth About Cats And Dogs			Nutty Professor II: The Klumps (7:10PM)				Stuck On You				Chain Reaction	
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Whose Line Is It Anyway?	Angel		The Simpsons	Malcolm In The Middle	Star News Asia	Friends	TNA Wrestling		The Collector/Miss Earth		Angel		Friends	Ultimate Force
Studio 23		Rave						The Batman	Justice League Unlimited	Wazzup Wazzup		Survivor Guatemala		Barkada Nights		News Central	Oprah		Just Shoot Me

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.



Why sales is not always a good measure of market share

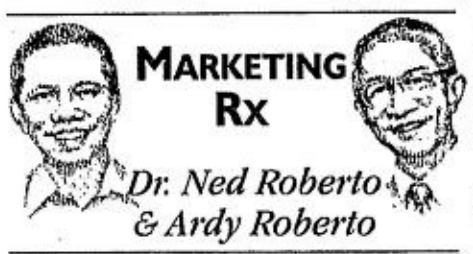
Q: WHEN A FRIEND ECHOED WHAT HE learned at your marketing seminar, he told me that you showed that sales is not a good measure of market share. (But) he could not explain how exactly this is so.

All along that's how we in the marketing department have been measuring each of our brand's market share. (That is) a brand's market share is equal to its sales divided by the sales of (the product category) where it belongs.

He also mentioned that you said that marketers could use the "percentage who use your brand most often" or even the "percentage who last used your brand" in the UAI (Usage, Attitude, Image) market survey as a correct market share measure.

How can that be? Those percentages come from (counts of) people buying and not counts of packages bought of, for example, my brand.

If different people buy different units or amounts, how can those counts of people equal market share as sales of product units? We're confused!



A: To start with, let us state that your office mate was correct in reporting to you what the Senior MRx-er said about market share in the seminar he recently attended. Unfortunately, he reported only on the "conclusions" but failed to report on the premises supporting each of the two sets of conclusions that the Senior MRx-er reached in his presentation of market share measurement. So let us look at each market share conclusion and then look closely at each conclusion's supporting premises.

Here's a more accurate statement of those conclusions:

Conclusion 1: "Sales is not always a good way to measure your brand's market share."

Conclusion 2: "The best and most accurate measure of your brand's market share is what the retail audit survey is able to estimate. But this is the most expensive research. For those who cannot afford subscribing to this research service or those who would like to validate its figures, the UAI survey estimate of market share is a good approximation. That estimate is in its "percentage who use brand most often" and/or its "percentage who last used brand." This estimate is especially inexpensive when obtained from the Omnibus Market Survey service of the leading survey agencies like SWS, ACNielsen, PSRC and others.

Sales not a good measure

On Conclusion 1: Sales (to your distributors or dealers) is not always a good market share measure.

If you are a manufacturing company, the sales that your accounting department reports in your brand's P & L or income statement is sales to your distributor or dealers. Those sales are distributor or dealer purchase behavior. They are not consumer purchase behavior. What sales you are after in marketing is consumer purchase behavior.

Where is consumer purchase behavior in this distribution flow? Consider the simplest and most direct flow:

Manufacturer - distributor - wholesalers - retailers - consumers

So consumer purchase behavior is in the last step or arrow in the flow. That's what marketing calls "shelf off-take." It's a well-chosen term: your brand being taken off from the retail store shelf by the buying consumer. And that's the sales, which is the correct basis for computing your market share or, more accurately, its share in the consumers' purchases of the product category.

Of course, in your accounting books as well as those of the distributor and wholesalers, the arrow from distributor to wholesaler and the one from wholesaler to retailer are counted as "sales." But from a marketing standpoint, all the first three arrows are "product or brand placements." The (manufacturer -distributor) product/brand movement simply says that your brand is now in place in your distributor's warehouse. Similarly with the (distributor - wholesaler) movement, saying: your brand is now in place in the wholesalers' warehouses; and the (wholesaler - retailer) movement, saying: your brand is now in place on the retailer store's shelves.

Incidentally, this should serve to warn you about the validity of the market share data you are buying from market research agencies selling data from their "panel of distributors," or "panel of wholesalers." Those are not market (consumer purchases) share data; they are merely placement share data. You should even be wary of those who claim that their data come from a "retail panel." If the data are from retail store purchase receipts, it's clear from our distribution flow that data from retail purchase receipts are still placement share and NOT shelf off-take (or market) share.

On Conclusion 2: UAI (Usage, Attitude, Image) survey's percentage BUMO (Brand used most often) or BLU (Brand last used) are a correct market share measure.

You have to take careful note of the complete statement of this conclusion. It refers first of all to the retail audit: "The best and most accurate measure of your brand's market share is what the retail audit survey is able to estimate." And how does a retail audit make that estimate?

A scientifically designed and validly conducted retail audit estimates your brand's monthly market share in two cross-validating ways. Note our qualifier, "scientifically designed and validly conducted." One that is so designed and conducted has this reason for being expensive. So check how scientific and valid is the "cheap" retail audit offered to you.

First, the audit is about the audited month's sales receipts (not only purchase receipts) of the panel's representative and randomly selected retail store sample. Then, it takes an inventory count of your brand and comes to an estimate of your brand's monthly sales in each retail store in the sample according to the accounting equation:

Total sales for the month = (beginning inventory) + (purchases) = (goods available)- (ending inventory) = (Total sales for the month)

The sales figure in the inventory count is cross-validated against the sales figure from the sales receipts audit. Your brand's market share is then computed from the cross validated sales figure divided by the sales of the product category where your brand belongs.

For monitoring or tracking purposes, many companies now do a quarterly UAI survey that is an abbreviated version of the comprehensive annual or every 2-3 years UAI. Over the past 50 years, users of the UAI data started comparing the UAI ratios of "percentage who use brand most often" (called for short as percentage BUMO) and the "percentage who last used brand" (called %BLU) to the retail audit's market share ratio. The three ratios converge most of the time. In those occasions when they did not, marketers noticed that the UAI ratio of "percentage on hand count" for the brand had the more consistent convergence. And so was born this practice: percentage BUMO and/or percentage BLU are good and very inexpensive approximations of the retail audit's market share estimate.

We are also often asked: "Is ACNielsen's retail audit estimate always correct?"

Remember, that's a retail audit survey of a sample of retail stores. So it has two sources of errors. Because it's a sample survey its estimate has statistical margin of error. Its statistics are transparent and honest about this error.

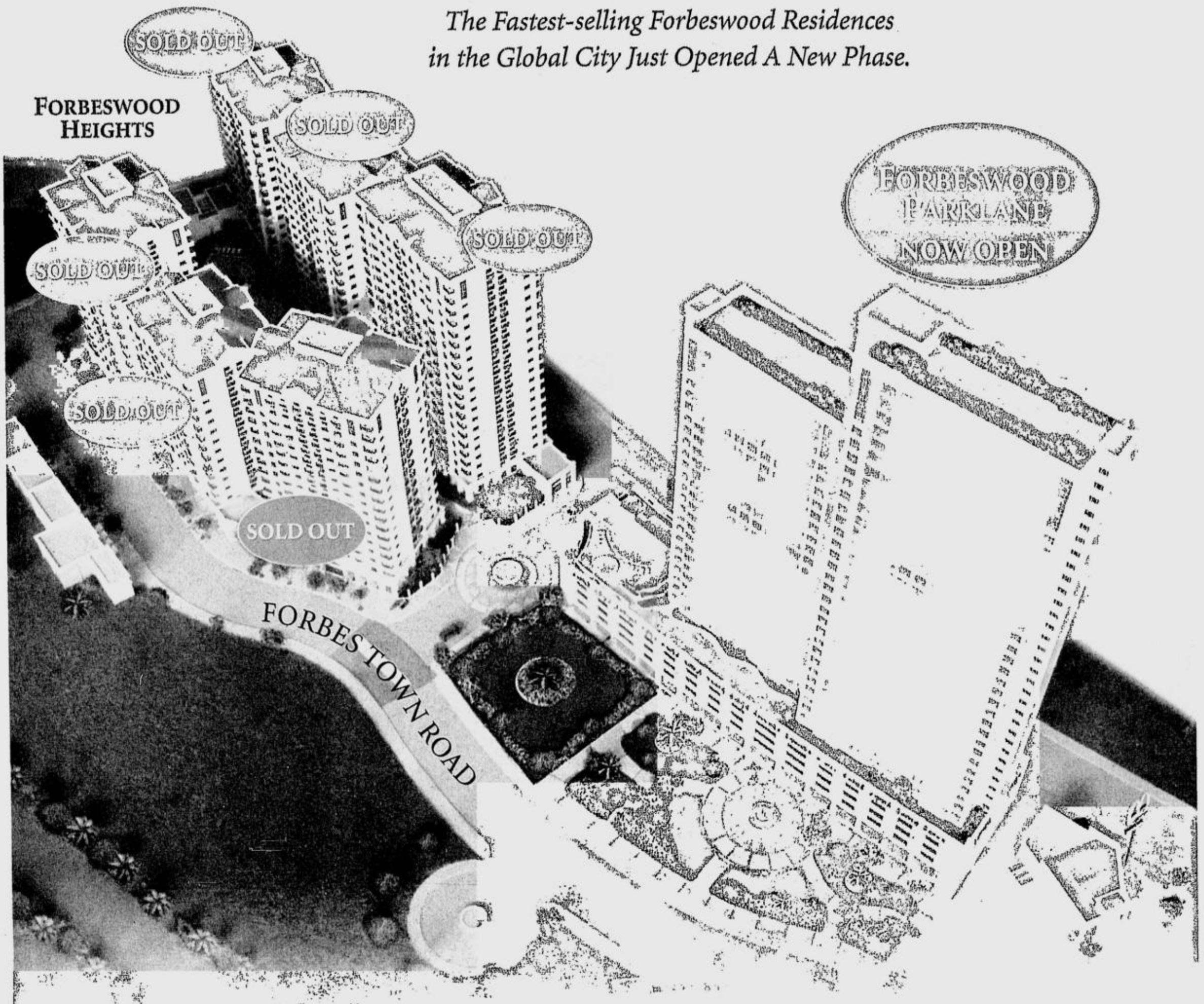
The more serious error is the error of "representativeness" of its store sample. For example, the retail audit's sample of drugstores has never succeeded including Mercury Drugstores. So the audit's drugstore sample under-represents (or more accurately, does not represent at all) this significant member of the drugstore population, and over-represents non-Mercury drugstores. This renders its Drugstore statistics unrepresentative and therefore not projectable.

Those of us in marketing deal with market behavior data and metrics that have to come, for the most part, from market surveys. Finance and production have the advantage over us on this score. Their data come from internal sources, especially accounting. Because of this, we need to be conscious of errors in relying on data from external sources, especially from surveys of the buying consumers and trade customers.

If accounting is now branded as "the language of financial and production business," then market survey is "the language of marketing business." In the same way that we say, you can't be a good finance or production manager if you don't know accounting, we have to accept a similar proposition in marketing: "You can't be a good marketing manager if you don't know market survey."

Feedback at MarketingRx@pldtDSL.net or text us at 0919-314-5412.

The Fastest-selling Forbeswood Residences
in the Global City Just Opened A New Phase.



Don't Miss this Rare Opportunity to
Live in the Country's Most Exciting Neighborhood.

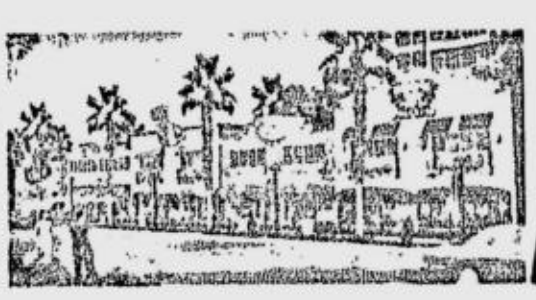
FORBESWOOD PARKLANE
LUXURY RESIDENCES

If you missed the opportunity to invest in a home at the fast-selling Forbeswood Heights in Bonifacio Global City, you now have the rare privilege of owning an exceptional lifestyle centered on pleasure... at Forbeswood Parklane.

Take your place at the top with 594 lavish executive studios and two-bedroom suites. Unwind in your very own tropical paradise, the Forbes Town Park and Lagoon, at the foot of your home, or at the fifth-level play deck. Paint the town red at the ground-level retail strip or at the Forbes Town Road a few steps away.

And with a prime location close to the Manila Golf and Country Club and other key destinations in Metro Manila, go from home to the thick of the action in no time at all.

Be one of the favored few to own one of the most coveted pieces of real estate in the country today. Forbeswood Parklane.



A Luxury Residential Condominium Project
at FORBES TOWN CENTER,
Bonifacio Global City, by:

BONIFACIO WEST
BONIFACIO WEST DEVELOPMENT CORP

and

MEGAWORLD CORPORATION
www.megaworldcorp.com
ISO 9001:2000 CERTIFIED

Find out what makes the Forbeswood residences the fastest-selling homes in the country.

CHECK OUT OUR TERMS NOW.

For inquiries, please call us at

816-2768 • 816-3520 • 816-3517

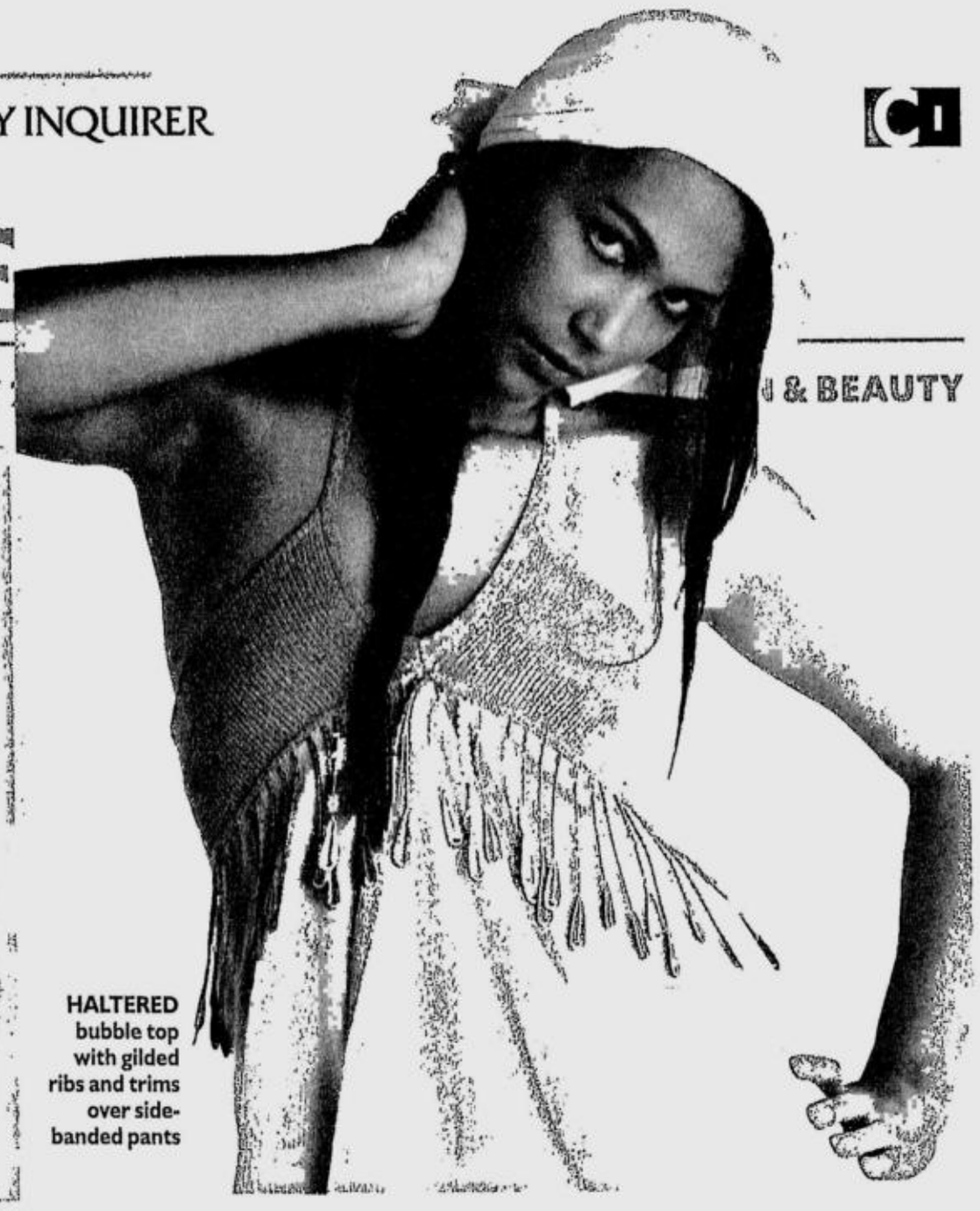
Forbes Town Center Showroom, 26th Street corner Rizal Drive, Crescent Park West District,
Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, Metro Manila • Fax: (632) 816-2514 • E-mail: sales@megaworldcorp.com

For Announcement Purposes Only

Riviera radiance

ASYMMETRIC convertible bubble top over pencil knee-length skirt

PHOTOGRAPHY: GIAMPIERO GASTALDI
MAKEUP: JIGS MAYUGA AND CINDY OF SHU UEMURA
MODEL: GWENDOLYN RUAIS



HALTERED bubble top with gilded ribs and trims over side-banded pants

TAN-GAN TAKES ITS CUE from the Mediterranean's vibrant energy for its Holiday Resort collection that's sure to get you through that jam-packed social calendar.

Easy, fluid pieces bear the glitzy seal of luxury native to the Riviera. Party on in sexy silhouettes. Halter dresses, bubble skirts and shorts are for flaunting your best assets. Flared tunics and lovely blousons leave room for fancy calories. All in colors inspired by the region's muted celadon greens and deep purples of hand-painted tiles, the cool gelato colors of mint, ube, and mango casually banded with clear sky blues, sand, and terra cotta. Threads of gold and steel and glit accessories catch the light to keep all eyes on you.

If a fabulous getaway is exactly what you need, it's highly recommended that you take that quick trip to Tan-Gan.

Meanwhile, Tan-Gan and Tiffany & Co. are presenting their holiday collections at an afternoon tea tomorrow at the Manila Peninsula's The Conservatory upper lobby.

Tan-Gan is located at SM Megamall, SM City North Edsa Annex, SM City Manila and Festival Supermall. E-mail lulutangan@yahoo.com or call 0917-5201078 or 0922-3462027.

MEDITERRANEAN tile-inspired blouson top

V-NECK chemise tent with gilded stripes and trims

UBE and seaweed tunic with senefa banded plunging back with faux flowers over shorts

LACOSTE

un peu d'air sur terre

www.lacoste.com

breeze through

RUSTAN'S MAKATI · RUSTAN'S TOWER · RUSTAN'S HARRISON PLAZA · AYALA CENTER, CEBU
CORTE DE LAS PALMAS (ALABANG TOWN CENTER) · GREENBELT 3 · ROBINSONS GALLERIA
ROBINSONS PLACE MANILA · SM MEGAMALL, BLDG. B · THE PODIUM · THE POWER PLANT (ROCKWELL CENTER)
THE STORE (GRAND BOULEVARD HOTEL) · GATEWAY MALL, ARANETA CENTER

A GRAND SLAM OF A CELEBRATION

To cap its 30th year celebration and finish a very strong year, Shakey's gives you the GRAND SLAM PIZZA. This premium quality pizza features four of your favorite flavors in one HUGE 18" New York Crust. The flavors are Shakey's Special, Pepperoni, Friday Special and Classic Italian Sausage.

The Shakey's GRAND SLAM PIZZA is perfect for the family or barkada... especially when they're hungry. It is great for 8 to 10 persons, and comes with a very attractive packaging that will surely make it stand out. Best of all, it comes at a very reasonable price of only Php 550++!

But wait! To provide you with more value, when you purchase the Shakey's GRAND SLAM PIZZA for carry-out or delivery from November 25 to December 31, 2005 you will get a 1.5 liter Coke absolutely

FREE!

So rush now to the nearest Shakey's outlet or have one delivered right at your doorstep and savor this great new pizza from Shakey's.

Shakey's GRAND SLAM PIZZA is offered in all Shakey's branches nationwide.

Shakey's DELIVERS!

CHALLENGE US
If it's late, it's

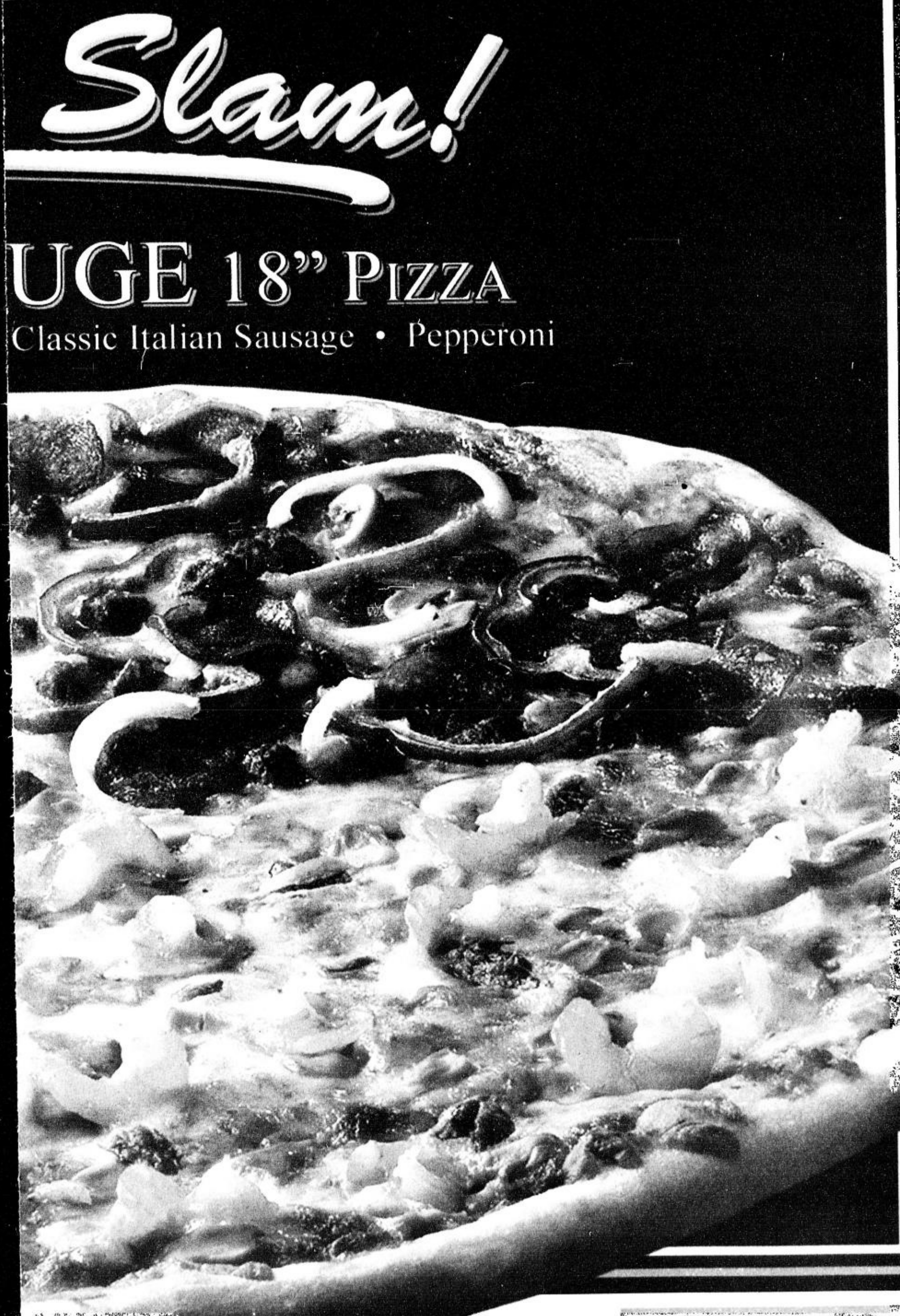
n Quality

Shakey's®

Slam!

UGE 18" PIZZA

Classic Italian Sausage • Pepperoni



SETTING THE DELIVERY TREND

On time delivery is a promise that almost all restaurants are offering and some come with a guarantee, but only Shakey's offers the REAL DEAL!!

Shakey's in its desire to WOW its delivery patrons, now offers the "IF IT'S LATE, IT'S FREE!!" Program in Metro Manila.

"Upon ordering, the call center agent requests for a synchronization of time with the caller and a guaranteed delivery time is given," says Shakey's Delivery Manager, George Salvador. "This order is then passed on to the nearest Shakey's delivery outlet that does its best to deliver the order on or before the guaranteed time without sacrificing the excellent food quality Shakey's has always been known for. When we are late, we give the ENTIRE ORDER FREE ...ON THE SPOT! We believe the guest deserves nothing less," concludes George Salvador.

Delmonte FOOD SERVICE

Coca-Cola

S!

FREE

CALL NOW!

533•8000

Two M's and a night to remember

By Pam Pastor
Photos by Rudy Esperas

LAST WEDNESDAY, Peninsula Manila Conservatory served as the venue for two milestones in the empowered Pinay's life—the launch of Metrobank's Femme Visa credit card and the comeback of fab designer Michelle Sison after a three-year hiatus from the world of fashion.

Metrobank Card Corporation designed the Femme Visa Card in recognition of the importance of a reliable credit card that can satisfy the needs and wants of women. This credit card promises to answer a woman's every whim—be it value for money, sensible shopping or convenience.

Shopping is an integral part of every woman's life. In the desire to aid her in finance management and utility, Metrobank Femme Visa features international acceptance in over 42 million establishments worldwide. Just look for the Visa logo. Femme Visa users can also share their privileges with four supplementary cardholders by assigning them monthly credit allotments.

And card payment doesn't have to be a chore—Femme cardholders can settle their bills at any of six hundred Metrobank or PS-Bank branches or ATMs, if they have accounts at those banks.

Unique services

Apart from their credit card system, Metrobank Femme Visa moves one step ahead by providing other unique services. To aid career-driven women, cardholders are automatically enrolled in JobsDB.com's alert service, which informs them of job openings that suit their qualifications.

Career Femme Sessions tackle topics like financial management, career strategies and fashion and beauty tips, and are held exclusively for credit card users. Femme Works keep cardholders updated on top 10 items, discounts, cash coupons and exciting freebies. Other offers include Metrobank Femme Rewards and the monthly Fab Femme Friends—a fun makeover of a selected Femme Visa user.

MICHELLE Sison of her well-received comeback: "I'm so happy and overwhelmed."

Dynamic, accomplished, well-rounded, independent, responsible and fashionable—that is the profile of a Femme Visa cardholder. And that's the very reason Michelle Sison chose the credit card's launch as the venue for her fashion comeback.

What are the accessories of an empowered woman? A reliable credit card and a one-of-a-kind designer bag

"The event is reflective of the people I cater to. They are decisive and they know what they want," said Michelle.

Michelle, who has been missed by fashion fans, showcased around 50 of her new bags in a fashion show and an exhibit that delighted the numerous women in the crowd. Michelle admitted to being a little jittery. "I was a bit nervous. I haven't done a show in so long."

But she had no reason to worry. Before the end of the night, all the bags were sold out and more orders and inquiries were pouring in. No big surprise there, really.

When asked to name her favorite bag, Michelle said, "I can't choose just one, I love them all."

Limited quantities

The beaded bags are one-of-a-kind, while the leather and fabric bags come in very limited quantities. Michelle refuses to do replicas of bags she's already sold. "Some people have been asking me to make the same bags. I told them I can make similar ones but not exact copies. I'm sure the people who bought the bags wouldn't want someone else to have the exact same thing," she explained.

The bags, which were inspired by many things including Michelle's trips to Cambodia and Tagaytay, come in various colors, designs, fabrics and textures that will appeal to women of different tastes.

Her masterpieces were named after people. "Some are inspired by my friends. Other bags reminded me of famous people." Check out the bags inspired by Tessa Prieto-Valdes, Tim Yap, Andy Warhol and Michael the Archangel.

Michelle has also started designing clothes again. "I started a month ago. I partnered with Joel Ong. Now more orders are coming in because of the holiday season."

By November, Michelle's bags will be available in Firma. "I want to go back because that's where I started and they took good care of me. I'm also talking to Ruby Gan so we can have the bags in Schu."

Those stores will soon be crowded with people, based on the attention Michelle's bags received at the launch.

Two M's—Metrobank and Michelle Sison, around 50 bags and one powerful credit card. That was a recipe for a night to remember.

For orders and inquiries, call Michelle Sison at 0917-3286363 or 8954133.

E-mail the author at ppastor@inquirer.com.ph

Never give the wrong gift again.

We've all been guilty of it. Just as we've all been on the receiving end of seemingly perfect gifts gone horribly wrong. Not anymore, with the Ayala Malls EGC*. It's the only gift card that's accepted in over 1,000 stores and comes in denominations of P500, P1,000, P2,000, P3,000 and P5,000. And because it's powered by BPI, it can be used in all BPI affiliated stores in the Ayala Malls. With this card, you're giving them exactly what they want, be it clothes, dining, spa treatments, or anything else on their wish lists. This Christmas, give them the Ayala Malls EGC - the gift of over a thousand choices.

AYALA MALLS egc Electronic Gift Certificate 0203 5330 1102 2375 Valid Thru 12/06

Accepted in over 1,000 STORES

www. ayalamalls.com.ph

*Ayala Malls EGC will be available on December 1, 2005. Pre-orders will be accepted. Please call 752-7324 to 25.

AYALA CENTER GLORIETTA
AYALA GREENBELT
ALABANG TOWN
MARKET! MARKET!
AYALA CENTER CEBU
Powered by BPI

sms feedback: inquirer life name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart)
or e-mail us at pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

LIFESTYLE

Contributing editors
Apples Aberin-Sadhwani
and Jenni Epperson

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

FASHION in the MIX

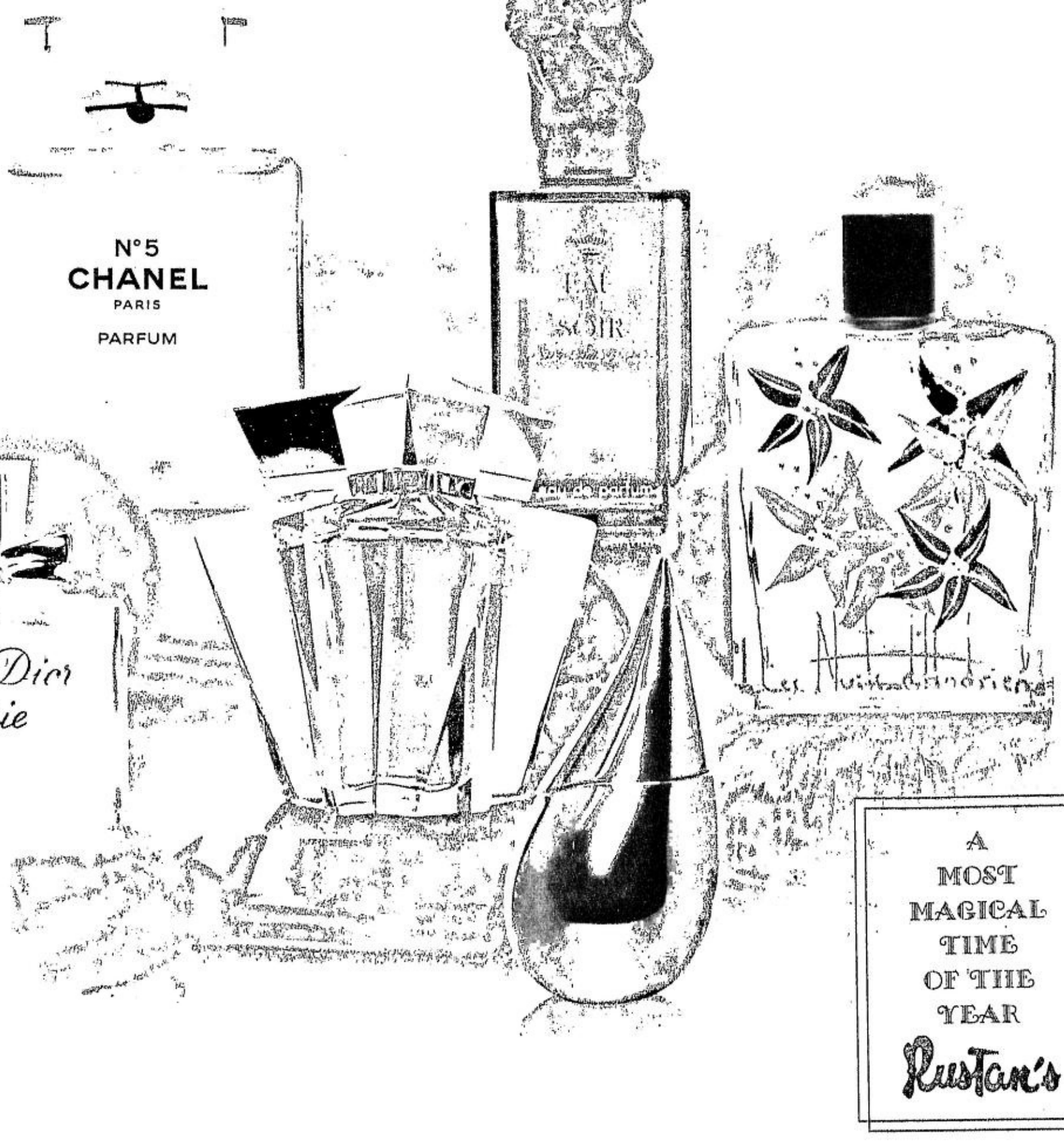
Photography Sara Black
Styling Maureen Disini
Model Kit Barraquias
Makeup Barbi Chan
Digital Imaging Kestrel IMC

STIR
your senses with Louis Vuitton's Beijing bash
p. E1

SWIRL
your wardrobe into exciting new combos
p. D2

SHAKE
your sensibilities with Randy's modern-day dandies
p. E2

This season,
may you have magic
in your hand.



A MOST MAGICAL TIME OF THE YEAR
Rustan's

Mishmash, mixmatch

Modern
+vintage
Top, Homme et Femme; jeans, Irene's Closet; shoes, Nine West; bangle, Irene Pineda

FASHION IS NO SCIENCE, BUT experimentation is key in achieving fun, funky looks that are uniquely you. Nowadays, it's all about mixing and matching distinct pieces that come together seamlessly. Or creating stark contrasts that beg for attention—with you being the constant variable!

APPLES' PICKINGS

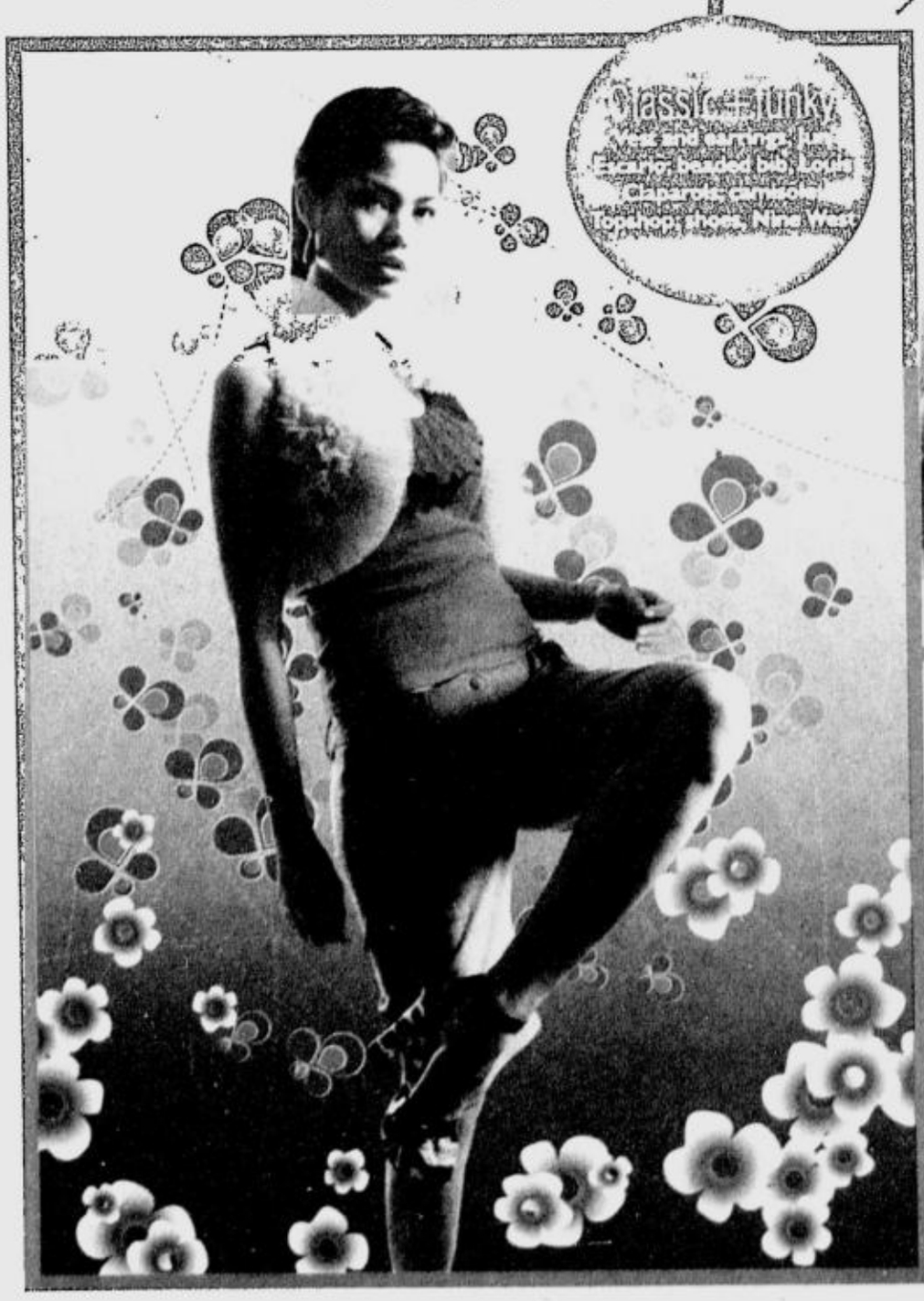
Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

There are more ways than one to create a stylishly merry mix of highs and lows, but it all starts with a vivid imagination and a bit of derring-do.

Put together pieces that don't necessarily go together and go beyond the typical jeans+formal top=high-low dressing combination. Although the look is reliable and acceptable enough, it is so "been there, done that"—unless you're wearing a fantastic, one-of-a-kind top, that is.

You can opt to channel your inner Kate, Audrey or Coco, or decide to go schizo by channeling these stylish personalities all at once. It's really up to you. There are no rules to hold you back, so combine and contrast all you want. But most of all, trust your instincts.

E-mail the author at afashion@inquirer.com.ph



Classic+funky

Tailored
+deconstructed
Long-sleeved shirt, Tyler; skirt, Cecile Zamora; shoes, Schu; necklace, Irene Pineda

IF YOU AREN'T READY TO GO WILD WITH A startling combination of pieces, try these simple yet effective ways of creating more subtle contrasts:

• Stick to basic silhouettes

One way to mix and match effectively is by wearing classic silhouettes. No matter how wild or bold your choice of prints or colors are, you can't go wrong if you stick to basic cuts that suit you best.

• Texturize

Use different textures to create your very own mix. You may combine nubby materials like tweed with lustrous silk. Or more structured materials like worsted wool with flowing fabrics such as chiffon. The possibilities are endless and can easily be toned down according to your comfort level.

• Use subtle prints

Not quite ready to combine a graphic zebra print with a vintage pattern from the '60s? Don't despair! You can still mix it up by using more understated prints that are monochromatic or more restrained in color.

A pastel floral print would look good when combined with light-colored stripes, for instance (think Paul Smith, but a mu neutral tones would

• Be yourself

There really is no lowing trends You c sion and adapt it acc type and age.

So whether you c contrasts or stick to yourself, follow your

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Designer
+*tiangge*
weed top, Pilar;
kirt, Paul Smith;
klace, Irene Pineda

66

... combining different trends from past decades like the '60s, '70s and '80s to achieve the look of the moment.
—Georgina Wilson, model/student

in the mix is . . .

Compiled by Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

... wearing a white tank with your boyfriend's old jeans and feeling damn sexy, then wearing haute couture and stilettos in total comfort. In the mix is fashion with attitude.
—Raya Mananquil, fashion model/writer

... a jungle of frequencies—the highs, the mids and the lows. It's a different recipe for every LP and the goal is to make each song shine, yet still be part of the whole. There are no formulas, just gut feel.
—Bamboo, musician

... a thousand choices and one true love. The mix is the challenge of sorting out and the triumph of finding "the one"!
—Jie Pambid, interior designer/dean, Philippine School of Interior Design

... lots of water, fruits, vegetables, enough sleep, dental bleaching and a good sunscreen to attempt to create the fountain of youth.
—Marco Protacio, general manager, Waterfront Hotels and Casinos

99

Be a fashion savant and lead the pack with unexpected combinations that are sure to turn heads

Formal + informal
Wraparound top and
sequined belt (used as
bandana): Details Trading
Floral skirt: Sequel
Striped belly bag: Pilar
Sole: Solea

ider version). A subtle pinstripe in
also look chic with a paisley print.

need to go off-the-wall when fol-
an always create your own ver-
rding to your personality, body

noose to create an exciting mix of
ried-and-true basics, just be
instincts and have fun!

STORES: CECILE ZAMORA, 0917-8366742; DETAILS TRADING, POWER PLANT MALL; HOMME ET FEMME, SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL; IRENE PINEDA, 0918-9357619; JUN ESCARIO, 0920-9105541; LOUIS CLAPAROLS, 0927-5978816; NINE WEST, ALABANG TOWN CENTER, ALABANG FESTIVAL MALL, GLORIETTA, GREENBELT, ROBINSONS GALLERIA, RUSTAN'S GATEWAY, RUSTAN'S MAKATI, HARRISON PLAZA, SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL, SM MEGA MALL, SM NORTH EDSA, PAUL SMITH, GLORIETTA, SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL; PILAR, 0922-5044489; SOLEA, POWER PLANT MALL; SCHU, GLORIETTA, SM MEGA MALL, SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL; TOPSHOP, GLORIETTA, POWER PLANT MALL, SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL. ROBINSONS GALLERIA; TYLER, GLORIETTA, POWER PLANT MALL. SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL, WOMEN'S SECRET, GLORIETTA, POWER PLANT MALL

PHOTOGRAPHY SARA BLACK
STYLING MAUREEN DISINI
MODEL KIT BARRAQUIAS
MAKEUP BARBI CHAN (0917-8460738)
DIGITAL IMAGING KESTREL IMC (9141488)

YOUR DESKTOP PC CHRISTMAS WISH, GRANTED.

Get an HP Pavilion a1225l Desktop PC for only P29,990 and get a FREE HP Entertainment Gift Pack.

Give yourself an early Christmas present with this value-added and reliable branded desktop PC. The HP Pavilion a1225l Desktop PC, powered by the AMD Sempron™ processor, comes with a formidable set of features like a 17" Flat Screen Monitor, 256MB DDR memory, 80.0 GB Serial ATA hard drive and a CD-RW/DVD Combo Drive. And to usher in the Christmas spirit of giving earlier, we've added an HP entertainment gift pack worth P7,900. What's more, this early Yuletide cheer is yours for P29,990 only. Get it from November 19 to December 15, 2005 and still get other items on your wish list for a truly merry Christmas.

P29,990 | HP PAVILION a1225l DESKTOP PC

- AMD Sempron™ Processor Model 3200* with HyperTransport™ Technology
- Free DOS Operating System
- ATI RS482/SB400 Chipset
- 256MB DDR
- 80.0 GB Serial ATA hard drive at 7200RPM
- CD-RW/DVD Combo Drive
- Integrated stereo sound system. Dolby® 5.1 Surround Sound Ready
- 9-in-1 Digital Media Reader
- ITU V.90 K56 flex modem
- Integrated 10/100 BaseT network interface (Broadband Ready)
- Integrated ATI Radeon Xpress 200 Graphics
- 1 year (on site) limited warranty with up-and-running phone support for first 30 days
- HP mx705, 17" Flat Screen CRT Monitor

*Processor speed 1.80GHz

This HP Pavillion Desktop PC features:

Convenient plug-and-play I/O port

Versatile 9-in-1 digital media reader

FREE HP Entertainment Gift Pack includes:

backpack | game controller | Creative stereo headset and microphone | mousepad | CD case | 5 CDs

Per DTI - NCR Permit No. 0863. Series of 2005

Visit the HP Experience Roadshow at the SM Cyberzone - Level 4, SM Megamall Bldg. B from Dec. 1 to 4, 2005 10 am to 9pm.

AMD Sempron

1-800-1441-6688
or (632) 867-3557
ph.contact@hp.com

hp invent

©2005 Hewlett-Packard Development Company, L.P. AMD, the AMD Arrow logo, AMD Sempron and combinations thereof are trademarks of Advanced Micro Devices, Inc. The HP Contact Center is available Mondays thru Fridays 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

WINDOW SHOPPING WINDOW SHOPPING WINDOW SHOPPING WINDOW SHOPPING

The hottest runway looks are in stores now!

ECKANKAR presents

Temple Within

Guest Speaker
Dr. Yibo Buowari

Dream Workshop
Visit to the Golden Wisdom Temples
Gain spiritual freedom, wisdom and love
Rediscover your true identity as Soul

2005 Philippine ECK Regional Seminar
Balay Kalinaw, UP in Diliman • December 4, 2005

Requested Seminar Donation
P250 adults, P50 full time students/minors

Email info@eckankar-philippines.org, or call/fax to 734-1039,
Gon 0916-7242184, Vikky 0928-6148600, Suzanne 0918-3920920

Fall into fashion

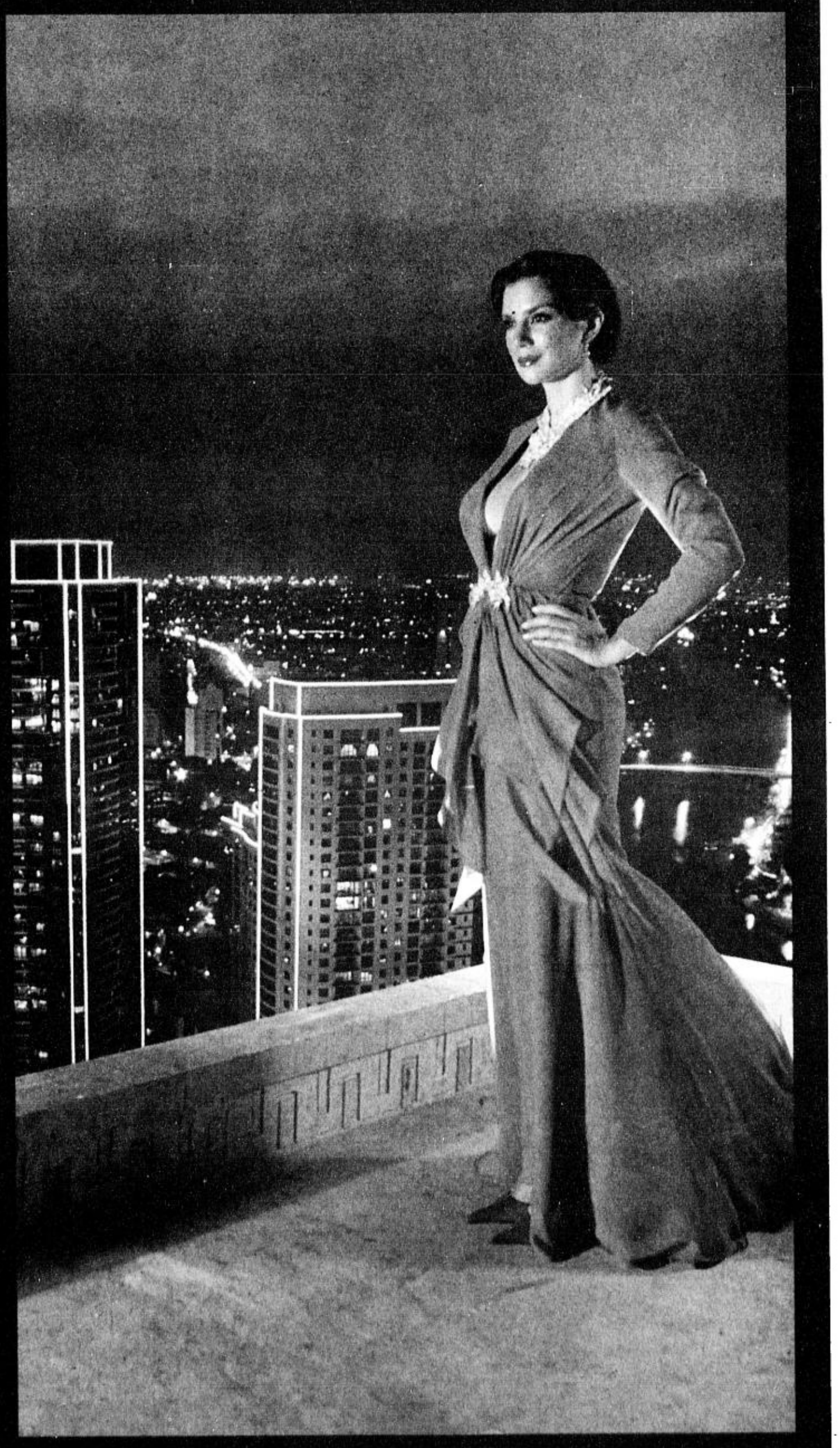
Text by Beia Formoso

JUST BECAUSE THE LEAVES don't change color on our archipelago doesn't mean Pinoys can't wear the latest fashion trends that are sweeping foreign (and colder) lands.

The formal, boxy look of military chic; the rich, dark hues of overly embellished Russian-inspired wear; and Victorian romance in all its ruffled, lace and brocade glory, have found their way onto our shores in lighter, softer and climate-appropriate versions.

PHOTOS BY SEPTEMBER MAHINO, BEIA FORMOSO AND JANUS VICTORIA
RUNWAY PHOTOS FROM WWW.STYLE.COM

One villa in the sky at Number One Rockwell.



Introducing, the new One Rockwell.
The only high rise with a Z-shaped loft.
To see is to believe: Imagine a unit that spans
the entire length of the building. So that you can see
the sun rise in the East and set in the West.

Own a Rockwell unit for as low as Php 16,500 per month
and attractive payment terms.

One Rockwell
Call 890-6888 or visit www.e-rockwell.com

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

LIFESTYLE

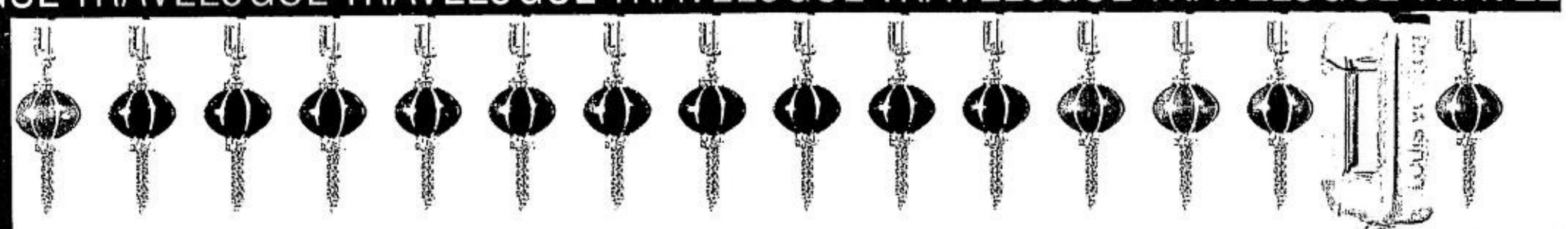
For feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback:
inquirer life name/age/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Contributing editors
Apples Aberin-Sadhwani
and Jenni Epperson

TRAVELOGUE TRAVELOGUE TRAVELOGUE TRAVELOGUE TRAVELOGUE TRAVEL

FASHION



LOVE, Beijing

"NI HAO!" THE LAST TIME I packed for winter was eight years ago. So you can imagine the stress and, at the same time, the excitement I felt when I got my editor's message that she was sending me to the Louis Vuitton store opening in Beijing, China, which is now on its winter season. A three-day sojourn to The Forbidden City was a packing feat.

With no time (and money) to lose, I brought out my winter artillery: Fendi coat, Mango fur jackets, over-the-knee Zara boots, Marks & Spencer thermal shirts and the Louis Vuitton monogrammed cashmere shawl I bought nine years ago and which has seen me through all of my cattle class travels.

Jenni Epperson

Logo mania

It was a blistering-cold (6° C) November afternoon on my first day in Beijing.

As we stepped out of the airport, a gust of cool winter air greeted us. Brrr. Clearly, I packed right for this trip—coats, scarves and boots. Behind us were a flood of fashionistas in coffee-and-cream checkered Louis Vuitton Damier shoes and bags, all scuffling to the nearest chauffeured limousines that would transport us to Shangri-La's China World Hotel. In the most Chinese-English accent I could muster, I told our dear driver, "Follow the logo, James!"

The hotel lobby gleamed with LV-loving fans from all over Asia: magazine and newspaper editors, PR peeps, models and celebrities busy checking in and checking out the fashion competition (well, at least I was). LV's PR priest, Andrew Glenn, was around to welcome the Asian brigade.

We were brought to Mei Fu Mansion in Old Beijing for dinner, which officially started the Vuitton party voyage. Between sips of Chardonnay and bites of abalone, Isabel Des Garets, LV's advertising director who's been with the company for 21 years (amazing!), assured me the 2006 Spring advertising campaign was going to be absolutely stunning with a new endorser.

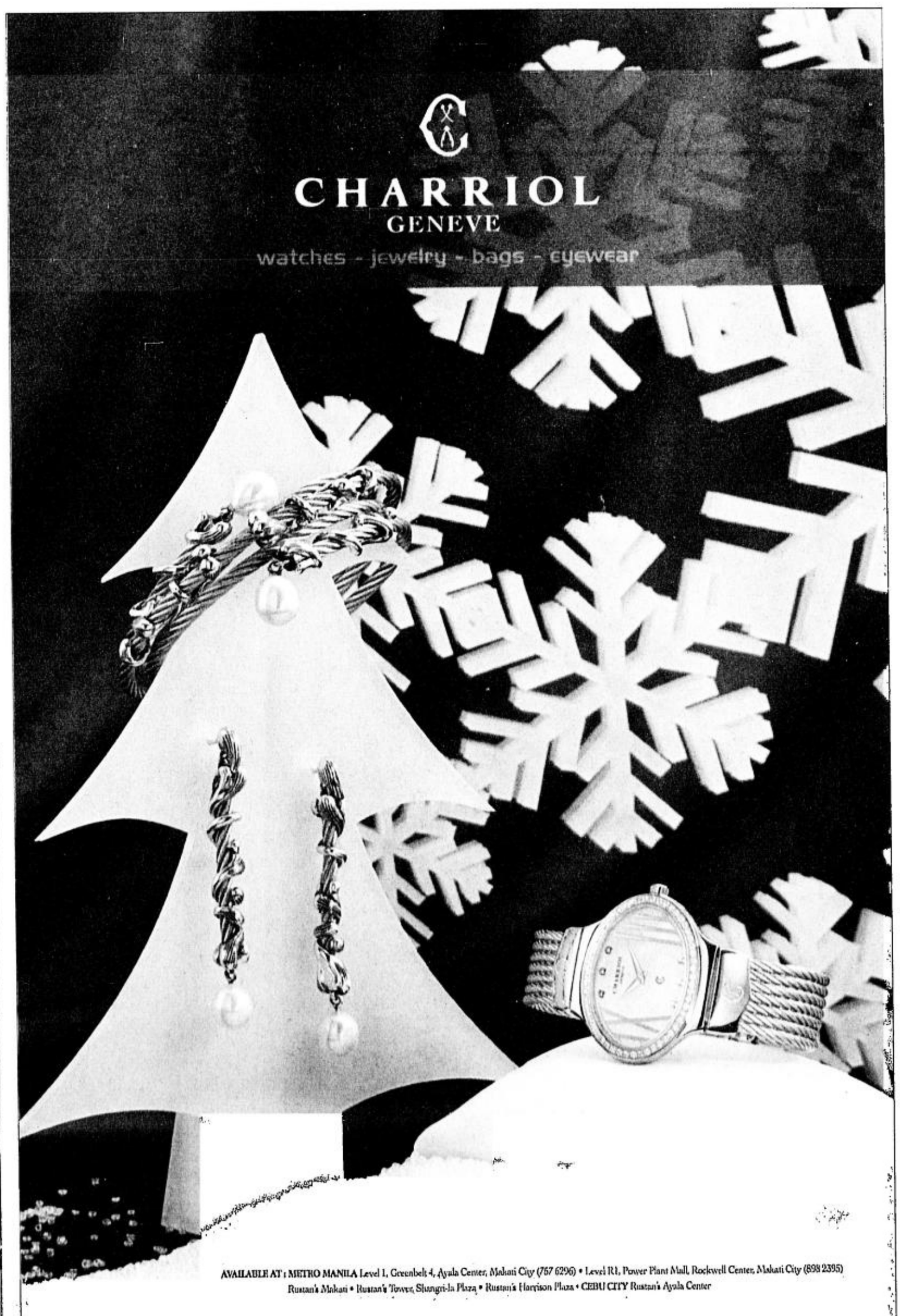
Marie-Sabine LeClerq, LV's head of global communications, confirmed that the brand's next face would be Brazilian babe Gisele Büdchen. Ooh-la-la! LV plus Gisele plus photographer tandem Mert Alas and Marcus Piggot—the pack surely spells a deliciously hot ad campaign.

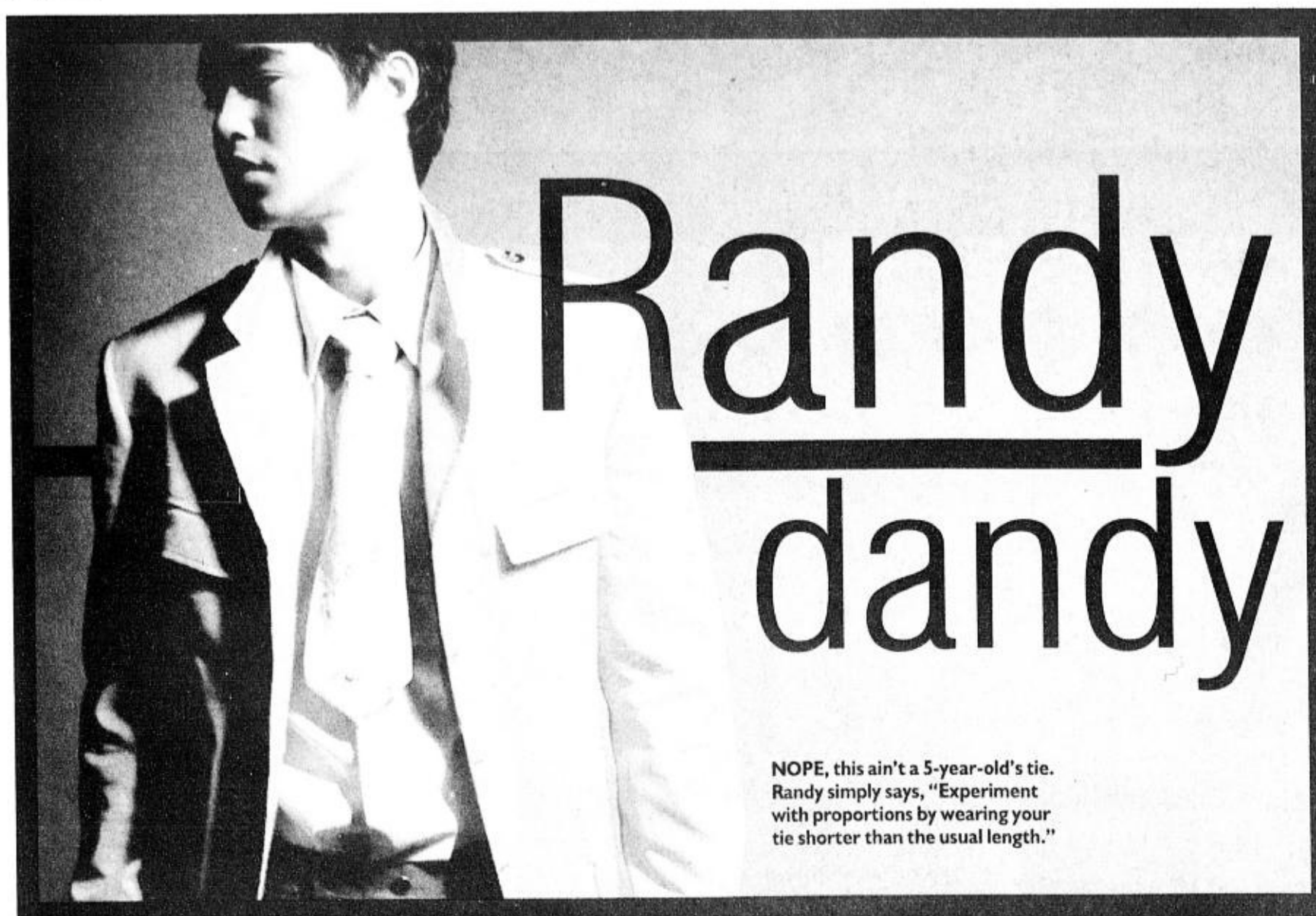
The genuine article

At 11 a.m. sharp, we all registered for the press conference at China World's Grand ballroom to meet with Louis Vuitton's head honchos: Bernard Arnault, chair and CEO of LVMH; Yves Carcelle, chair and CEO of LV Malletier; and Serge Brunschwig, managing director of LV Malletier.

The questions on counterfeit LV in China and the expansion of

LOVE/ E4





Randy dandy

NOPE, this ain't a 5-year-old's tie. Randy simply says, "Experiment with proportions by wearing your tie shorter than the usual length."

TOUCHES of color will make you stand out in any crowd. Deviate from the classic (read: the potentially boring) by giving neutral-colored pieces bold color accents.

Fashion designer Randy Ortiz's usual advice to male clients: Stick to classic silhouettes before allowing your imagination to run riot

By Alex Y. Vergara

GUYS, LISTEN UP. WHEN IT comes to combining solid colors with prints, details with textures, there are no hard-and-fast rules to follow.

If there's one rule fashion designer Randy Ortiz tries to impart to his male clients, it's to stick to classic silhouettes before allowing your imagination to run riot.

"I call it attitude dressing," says Ortiz, who first made a name for himself in the fashion biz doing men's wear. "A suit or a shirt with a classic silhouette will gain that much-needed edge and still remain tasteful through the proper mixing of patterns and prints."

Even a tuxedo shirt in basic black or white can acquire a bit of panache. Ortiz's take on a white shirt featured in this photo shoot, for instance, was confined to the pleated fabrics that make up the bib. Instead of using the same fabric as the shirt's, he used various materials—from cotton pique to satin, stretched cotton to taffeta—to make it look more tactile.

In keeping with the unfinished look, he did away with the customary edging. The same technique was also evident in a black tuxedo jacket with a shawl collar fashioned from tiers of fabrics in varying textures and materials.

"Filipinos are still generally conservative, but not a few are starting to loosen up," he says. "So as not to scare them away, I try my best to keep my pieces from looking even remotely feminine despite all that experimentation."

Fitted look

Since the fitted look is still very much the rage, Ortiz also updated the proportions of his corduroy suits by making them a bit shorter and tighter. He doesn't expect his male clients to have a model's figure, but just the same he encourages them to stay fit.

The designer also injected contrasting as well as complimentary colors to his jackets (even the ones made from staid suiting materials) via such devices as topstitching, silk lining and tweed accents underneath the collars.

A deep orange number, for instance, was further "amped" up by topstitching in contrasting colors like chocolate brown and electric blue. Even the jacket's lining, which occasionally peeks out as the wearer moves, was fashioned from a striped silk fabric in bone and mocha.

Gone are the days when topstitching meant being confined to black or amber thread. These days Ortiz uses anything from violet to pink, aqua to red, depending on the client's personality and the impact he wants to achieve.

For this photo shoot, Ortiz also infused jolts of color and texture to his shirts' inner plackets and French cuffs. He also lined a number of jackets with either a bold trim or a more subtle piping along the collars a la Channel.

One wool jacket inspired by Justin Timberlake even had a detachable hood lined with terrycloth in hot pink. Still, another wool jacket had a collar lined with mustard shearling.

In fact, not a few of his pieces, particularly a jacket with a houndstooth print, had a vintage yet contemporary feel to them. The trick, says Ortiz, is to simply combine contemporary fabrics such as denim and corduroy with more traditional ones such as tweeds and tropical wool while sticking to contemporary cuts.

Floral prints

As far as prints go, Ortiz currently favors paisley, baroque and floral (not the Hawaiian-shirt variety) patterns for his shirts. One of his tops, for instance, had panels made from various floral prints on a white background that came in similar colors. A pair of pants, which he paired with a double-belted military-style jacket in army green, was even fashioned from green, yellow and brown paisley.

"You can only reinvent the shape so much," he says. "But you can do quite a number of things by way of embellishments such as pleating and embroidery and through the juxtaposition of materials. The challenge is to keep the look interesting without making it appear too cluttered."

That's why before he even thinks of tweaking an outfit by fusing together various elements, Ortiz first pays attention to the fit. He also makes it a point to ask new clients to share with him a brief background about themselves and their lifestyles.

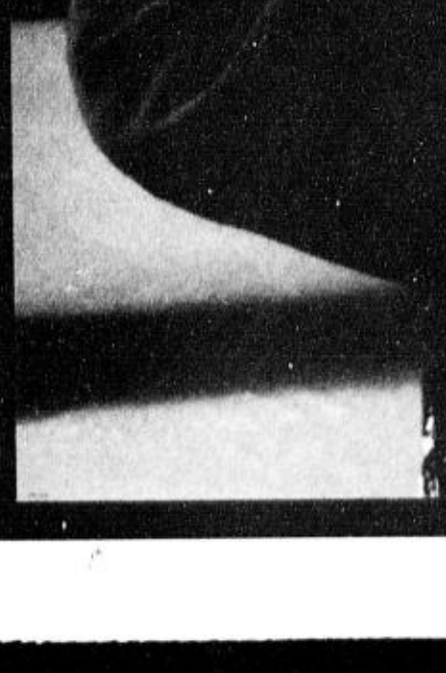
"If he's the corporate type," says Ortiz, "I'd still come up with something hip, but more subdued. If he's a young, high-profile party animal, however, I'd let him wear more daring outfits and club wear."

Ortiz draws the line at beadwork, which he usually reserves for show biz denizens. After all, not even the most daring metrosexual with a penchant for mixing and matching textures, prints and colors can do a Kuya Germs or a Mike Velarde and get away with it.

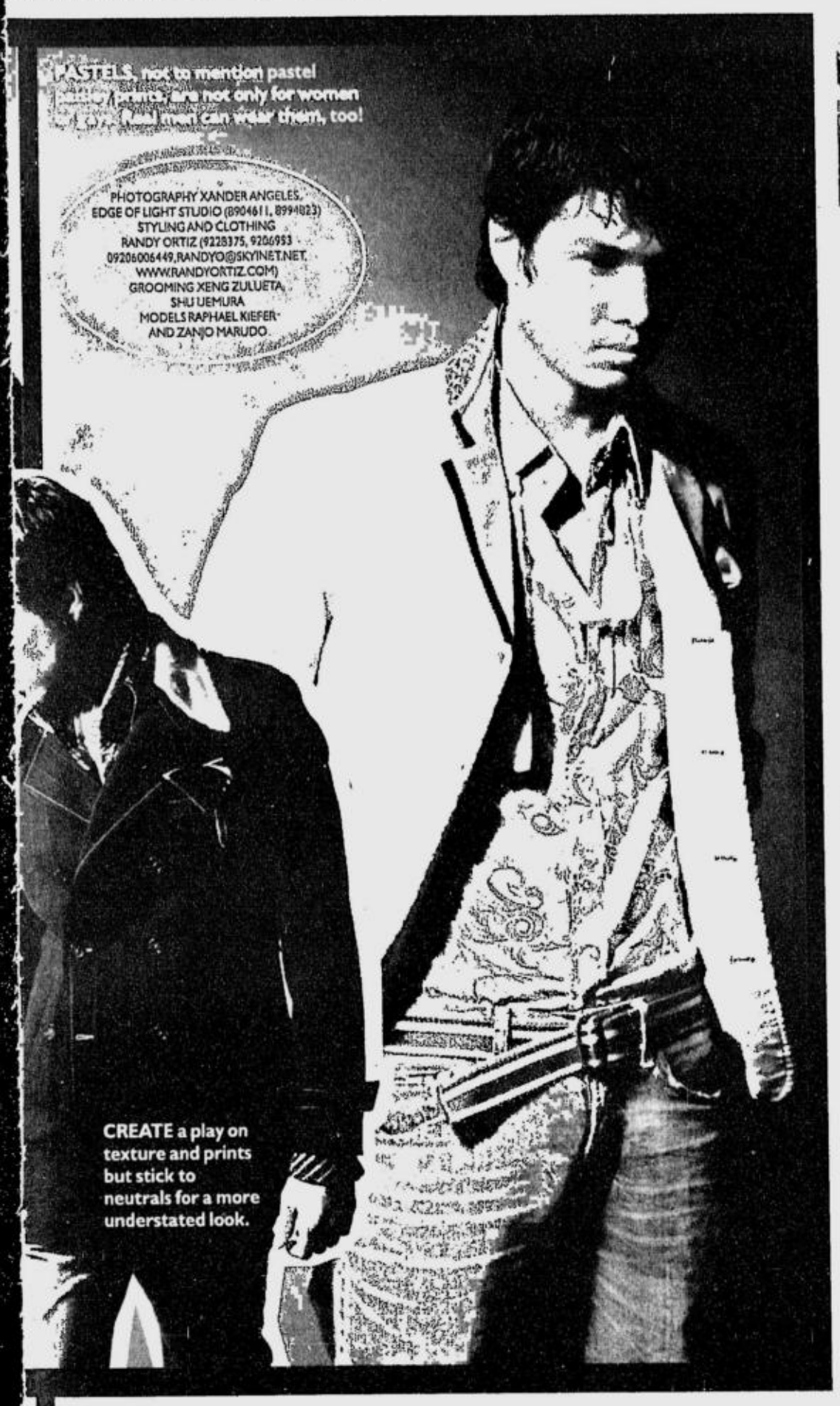
E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

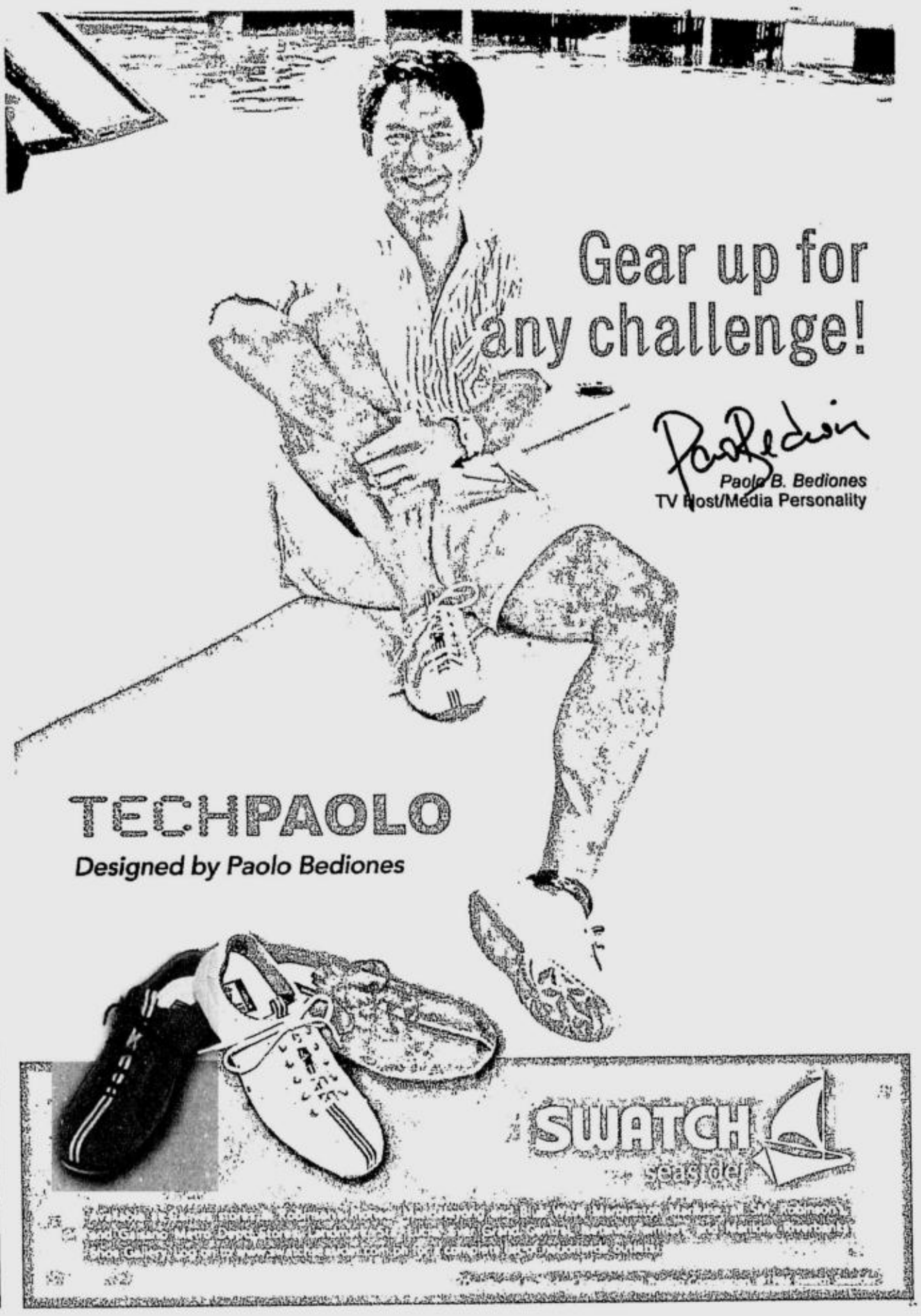
GO AHEAD and combine prints. A paisley or floral print top looks smashing when paired with a basic houndstooth jacket.

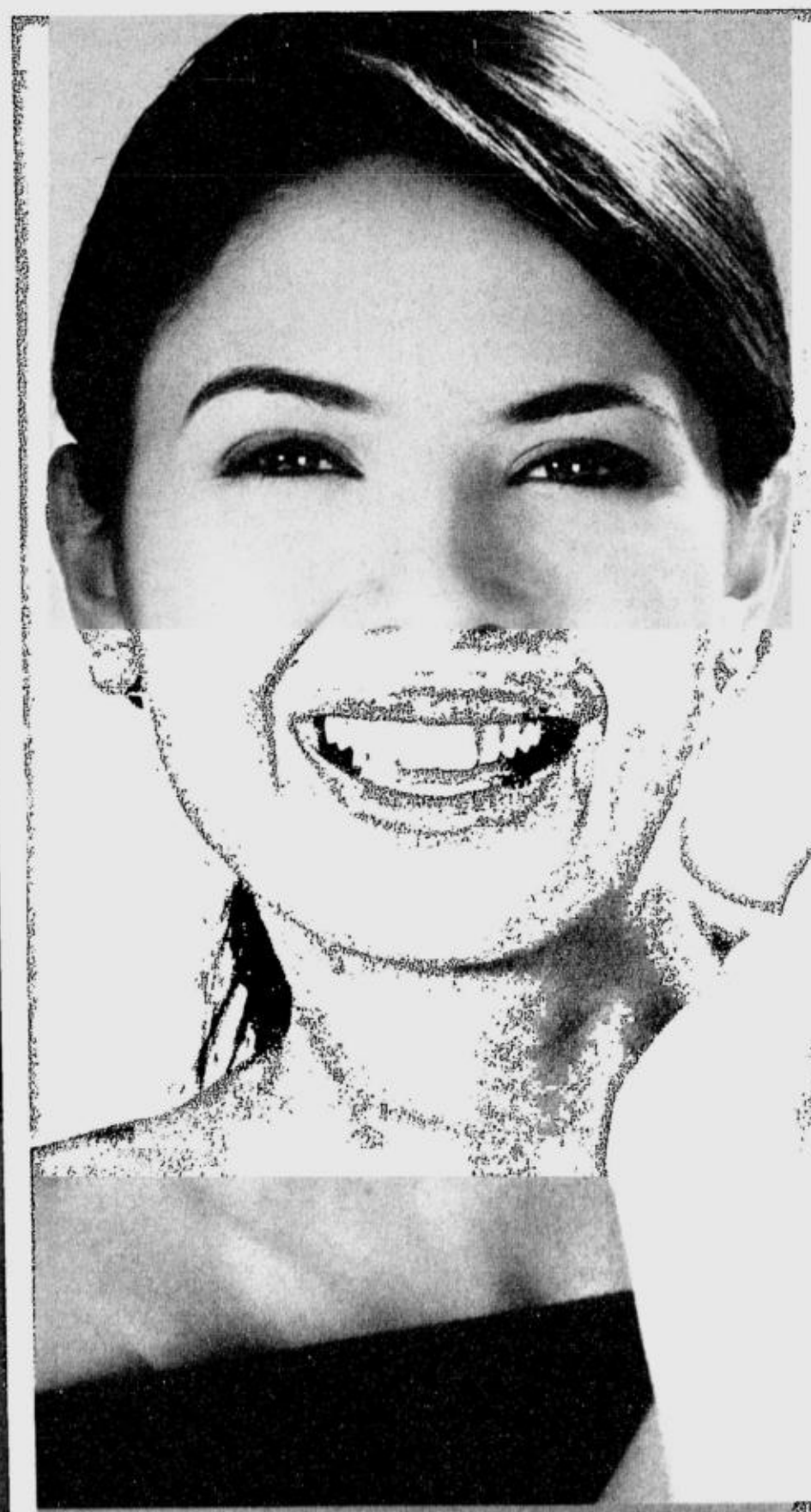
GO AGAINST the grain. Match a formal tuxedo jacket and dress shirt with casual jeans and really cool Vans sneakers!



ATTENTION to detail is key to dressing well. Final touches such as socks and cufflinks will help define your look, so in this case, do sweat the small stuff.


PASTELS, not to mention pastel prints, are not only for women
PHOTOGRAPHY XANDER ANGELES, EDGE OF LIGHT STUDIO (8904611, 8994823)
STYLING AND CLOTHING RANDY ORTIZ (9228375, 9206953 09206006449, RANDYO@SKYINET.NET, WWW.RANDYORTIZ.COM)
GROOMING XENG ZULUETA, SHU UEMURA
MODELS RAPHAEL KIEFER AND ZANJO MARUDO
CREATE a play on texture and prints but stick to neutrals for a more understated look.


Gear up for any challenge!
Paolo B. Bediones
TV Host/Media Personality
TECHPAOLO
Designed by Paolo Bediones
SWATCH
sea style


"My beauty secret? Dishwashing liquid."
City Professional
Use your Dolce Vita Card for groceries and all other purchases and get free beauty treatments like manicures, pedicures, massages, even a Diamond Peel!
BEHIND EVERY GREAT WOMAN IS A DOLCE VITA
PHILIPPINE MARKETING EXCELLENCE AWARDS
Find out why Dolce Vita is the Most Outstanding Credit Card for Women in 2004. Call 636 8700 to apply.
See flyers for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 6281. Series of 2005.
The Philam Group of Companies offers you a full range of financial services Life and General Insurance • Property & Casualty Insurance • Health Care Management • Pre-Need Plans • Savings and Mortgage • Mutual Fund Investments • Property Development • Credit Cards • Business Processing Service • Bancassurance • Financial Advisory Service Dolce Vita is a product of AIG Credit Cards

LV Love, Beijing

From page E1

stores were probably on everyone's list. Arnault acknowledged "there was a lot of problems" with product piracy in China, but said they were getting "cooperation from the State" in trying to solve it. He added that, despite widespread copying, there was no danger that consumers would confuse the counterfeit with the genuine article. Louis Vuitton shoes and bags are among the items most widely copied in China.

Said Brunschwig, "It is a continuous battle, but certainly it's truly hopeful that as China develops, they will enforce the laws more and more to protect the intellectual property rights of all brands."

According to Yves Carcelle, the new Beijing shop was expected to be "immediately profitable." Louis Vuitton plans to open two to three shops a year in China in the near future according to Brunschwig.

"We are committed to invest every time there is an opportunity in this market. We have sent out a team looking at every city in China," he said. "We look at every city as a potential" market.

The host asked for one last question and I thought since no one was raising their hands, it was my opportunity to raise mine. The mic was then passed on to me and it was too late when I realized I don't have a question to ask anymore. Luckily, from the corner of my left brain, I got it! Were there any plans for Marc Jacobs to visit China, especially now that it was becoming one of the strongest market for Louis Vuitton?

I held my breath for a second anticipating chuckles but, instead, Carcelle answered, "I sincerely hope by December or April, Marc will be able to visit Hong Kong. He had made plans in the past but sometimes, you know, you just don't know with designers." Everyone broke into laughter; it was a fitting answer to end the conference. Whew!

House of fashion

A quick tour of the new LV store was next. I obviously made an impression on Carcelle as he took Rhea, Rorie and myself on a personal tour of the shop, posing for my camera and introducing us to just about everyone. He explained that the architecture and design of this particular store was an enlightening meeting of East and West, the brand's iconic motifs aptly interpreted and merged with a touch of Chinese influence.

François Delage, president of LV Asia Pacific added that the split-level design was traditional Chinese architecture where a promenade was in the middle of the house, and this was cleverly done in this luxurious emporium that had no walls or barriers to block each of the levels.

I was also introduced to Patrick Louis Vuitton (the man, not the brand), fifth generation of the Louis Vuitton dynasty, and he gestured for me to take a photo of him with Eric Leroux, an LV artisan for 23 years.

China chic

This is it! Hailed as "party of the year" by the Chinese press, you could smell the excitement, the Veuve Cliquot champagne, the French goose liver and Peking duck rolls.

CHIC CELEBRITIES. Zhao Wei, Xu Xiang Lei

Armed with my beautiful white coat, Aranaz *sarimanok* evening bag and my Dolce&Gabbana red Swarovski-encrusted peep toe shoes, I met my party girls, Rhea and Rorie at the lobby.

I must say everyone but us was on time. The debaucheries started early, which I was not used to, coming from the Philippines where 8 p.m. meant 11 p.m. Nonetheless, us party girls grabbed bubblies and immediately headed to the 40-meter tunnel decorated with antique LV trunks, greeted by Cirque de Soleil troupers. We entered the Hall of China World Hotel that had been transformed to a 2,000-square-meter "fashion nation," combining East-meets-West aesthetics—huge LED lighting and Chinese bamboo iconography. I was Alice and the venue had become my wonderland!

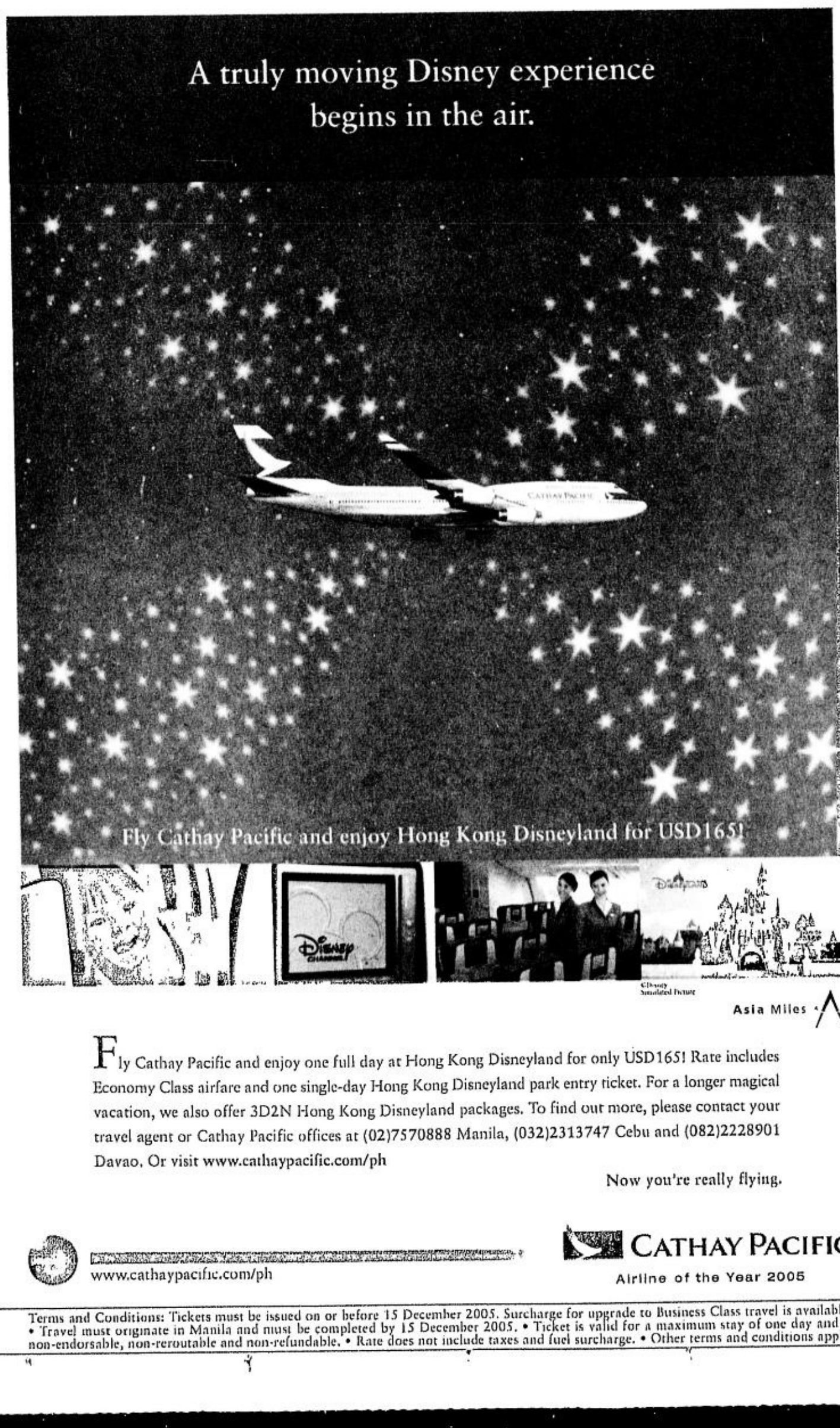
I couldn't help but notice that only my party posse and me, all the LV honchos and other editors were jumping and letting our hair down on the dance floor. The cute boys of Beijing and the affluent set were on the sidelines watching and just enjoying what probably to them was a riot as all of us spilled Cliquot on each other's party frock.

The night thinned out fast and at 2 a.m. people had left. I was disappointed no one had passed out drunk. Meanwhile, with the help of a scribbled note given to me by Tim Yap in Mandarin, I kept asking the locals "*Tsai nah lee* after party? (where's the after party?)" Unfortunately, it's either I slurred the words incorrectly or there was none.

Beijing might still be a baby when it comes to partying, but this infant is sure to grow up fast and furious in terms of becoming a powerful player in the fashion industry and basically in everything. With it's reformed economy, the affluent market will just grow exponentially, making Louis Vuitton a very happy and rich brand.

LV'S ANDREW Glenn

E-mail the author at jfashion@inquirer.com.ph



Fly Cathay Pacific and enjoy one full day at Hong Kong Disneyland for only USD165! Rate includes Economy Class airfare and one single-day Hong Kong Disneyland park entry ticket. For a longer magical vacation, we also offer 3D2N Hong Kong Disneyland packages. To find out more, please contact your travel agent or Cathay Pacific offices at (02)7570888 Manila, (032)2313747 Cebu and (082)2228901 Davao. Or visit www.cathaypacific.com/ph

Now you're really flying.

www.cathaypacific.com/ph

CATHAY PACIFIC
Airline of the Year 2005

Terms and Conditions: Tickets must be issued on or before 15 December 2005. Surcharge for upgrade to Business Class travel is available. • Travel must originate in Manila and must be completed by 15 December 2005. • Ticket is valid for a maximum stay of one day and is non-endorsable, non-reroutable and non-refundable. • Rate does not include taxes and fuel surcharge. • Other terms and conditions apply.

Halo-halo special

Magandang Filipina
BEAUTY FOR LIFE

Re[illegible] Alejandro

now open

PROMO EXCLUSIVE FOR SM MOLINO & SM VALENZUELA ONLY

SM Molino
2/F SM SUPERCENTER BRGY. MOLINO 4 MOLINO RD.
BACOOR CAVITE CITY
PROMO RUNS UNTIL DECEMBER 17, 2005
PER DTI-CAVITE PERMIT NO. 358 SERIES OF 2005

SM Valenzuela
2/F SM SUPERCENTER BRGY. KARUHATAN VALENZUELA CITY
TEL. NO.: 294-0743
PROMO RUNS UNTIL NOVEMBER 21, 2005
PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. A4-155 SERIES OF 2005

SM San Lazaro
2/F SM CITY SAN LAZARO
STA. CRUZ MANILA
TEL. NO.: 786-2524 TO 25

LET'S FACE IT
THE ONE STOP FACIAL SALON

20% off
ON SELECTED SERVICES

NOW OPEN: FBR.KATIPUNAN TEL.: 434-9035, CORBY BLDG. LIBIS TEL.: 634-2223
SOON TO OPEN: CABANATUAN CITY • SM ILOILO • MALL OF ASIA • SM STA.ROSA

BEAUTY

Celebrating the Pinay beauty

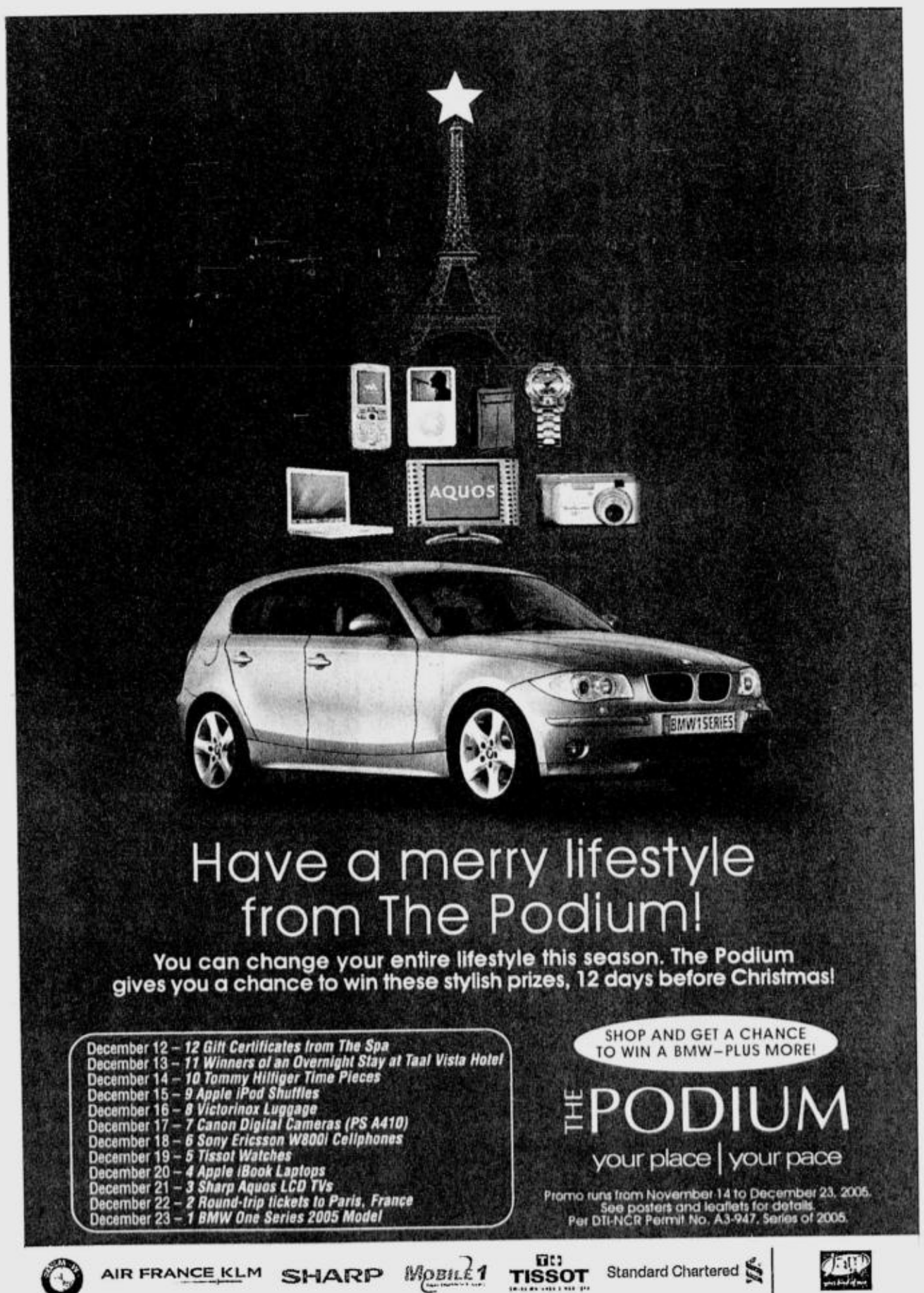
POND'S, THE WORLD-CLASS skin care expert and leading face care brand, celebrated Filipina beauty through the Pond's Magandang Filipina exhibit, its launch of "Magandang Filipina: Beauty for Life" book, and the Beauty for Life fashion show featuring top designers as they interpreted Pinay pulchritude through their creations and muses.

"Magandang Filipina: Beauty for Life," written by Reynaldo G. Alejandro, is a coffee-table publication which showcases beautiful Filipinas in their everyday routines, embodying Pond's philosophy that beauty is for living, not just for show.

The Beauty for Life show featured the country's top designers. Ben Farrales, Roy Gonzales, Auggie Cordero, Cesar Gaupo, Patis Tesoro, Nollie Hans, Frederick Peralta, Randy Ortiz and Rajo Laurel interpreted the theme through their clothes and muses, in effect creating a live illustration of the "Beauty for Life" book.

To further highlight the true beauty of Filipinas, an exhibit showcased award-winning photos from the "Magandang Filipina: Beauty for Life" book. Several photos were uniquely complemented with actual, living models posing in front of the pictures.

Visit www.ponds.com.



Have a merry lifestyle from The Podium!

You can change your entire lifestyle this season. The Podium gives you a chance to win these stylish prizes, 12 days before Christmas!

December 12 – 12 Gift Certificates from The Spa
December 13 – 11 Winners of an Overnight Stay at Taal Vista Hotel
December 14 – 10 Tommy Hilfiger Time Pieces
December 15 – 9 Apple iPod Shuffles
December 16 – 8 Victorinox Luggage
December 17 – 7 Canon Digital Cameras (PS A410)
December 18 – 6 Sony Ericsson W800i Cellphones
December 19 – 5 Tissot Watches
December 20 – 4 Apple iBook Laptops
December 21 – 3 Sharp Aquos LCD TVs
December 22 – 2 Round-trip tickets to Paris, France
December 23 – 1 BMW One Series 2005 Model

SHOP AND GET A CHANCE TO WIN A BMW–PLUS MORE!

THE PODIUM
your place | your pace

Promo runs from November 14 to December 23, 2005.
See posters and leaflets for details.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A3-947, Series of 2005.

AIR FRANCE KLM SHARP Mobil 1 TISSOT Standard Chartered
SEMICON Canon SWISS ARMY TOMMY HILFIGER TAAL VISTA HOTEL The Spa WAVE BOAT

PINAY pride
p. F3

LASH-TING impression
p. F3

SUN-NY side up
p. F4

FAVE mix
p. F4

SuperFerry
FREE Ticket Delivery
Call (02) 528-7000

Tours, Leisure & Chow

greatlife@inquirerpbom.ph
897-8808 local 260

Alden Joshua Cedo, Graphics Design

Where to Stay
Where to GO

A weekly directory of the country's best establishments

NEW WORLD RENAISSANCE HOTEL MAKATI CITY

New World Renaissance Hotel
Esperanza St. cor. makati Ave., Makati City
Tel. 811-6888/Fax. 811-6777
www.marriott.com

INTERCONTINENTAL MANILA

Intercontinental Manila
1 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Tel 815-9711
www.intercontinental.com

Dusit Hotel Nikko

Dusit Hotel Nikko
Ayala Center, 1223 Makati City Phil.
Tel. 867-3333 Email: dusitmnl@dusit.com
http://manila.dusit.com

Oakwood

Oakwood Premier Ayala Center
6th Floor, Glorietta 4, Ayala Center
Makati City, Metro Manila
Tel. (63.2) 729.8888 loc. 8101 Fax:: (63.2)
728.0000 / echua@oakwood..com.ph
www.oakwood.com

Evercrest Golf Club Resort, Inc.
Km. 72 Batulao, Nasugbu, Batangas
Tel. (02) 712-9293 to 98
Fax (02) 712-9299
Manila Sales Office 733-3822/733-9955

The Bellevue Manila
North Bridgeway, Northgate
Alabang, Muntinlupa
Tel. (632) 771-8181/ fax (632) 771-8282
www.thebellevue.com.ph

ASTORIA PLAZA
Serviced Residential Suites

ASTORIA PLAZA
15 J. Escriva Drive, Ortigas Business District,
Pasig City 1600
Tel 687-1111 Fax 910-0370
Email: sales@astoriaplaza.com

Executive Plaza Hotel
1630 A Mabini St., Malate, Manila
Tel 523-1000 /fax 525-8979
Email: sales@executiveplazahotel.com
www.executiveplazahotel.com

Las Palmas

Las Palmas Hotel Manila
1616 A. Mabini St., Malate, Manila
Tel. (632) 521-1000/ Fax (632) 523-6917
www.laspalmashotel.com.ph

HOTEL VENIZ BAGUIO

Hotel Veniz
No. 1 Abanao St. Baguio City
Tel. (074) 446-0700 to 03
Fax (074) 446-0704
Email: hotelveniz@skyinet.net
www.hotelveniz.com

Subic INTERNATIONAL HOTEL

Subic International Hotel
Subic Bay, Free Port Zone, Olongapo City
Manila : 243-2222 / F: 243-0852
http://www.subichotel.com

THE MARCO POLO DAVAO

The Marco Polo
CM Recto St. Davao City 8000
Tel. (082) 221-0888/fax (082) 225-0111
www.marcopolohotels.com

Grand Regal Hotel Davao
J. P. Laurel St., Lanang, Davao City
Tel (382) 235-0888 / (382) 234-3858

SOMERSET SALCEDO MAKATI

Somerset Salcedo, Makati
H.V. dela Costa St., cor. L.P. Leviste St., Salcedo Village, 1227 Makati City
Tel. 888-6668 Fax: 888-6655

SOMERSET MILLENNIUM MAKATI

Somerset Millennium, Makati
No. 104 Aguirre St., Legaspi Village, 1229
Makati City
Tel. 888-0505 Fax: 812-7721

SOMERSET OLYMPIA-MAKATI

Somerset Olympia, Makati
No. 7912, Makati Ave., 1220 Makati City
Tel. 812-1010 Fax: 818-8254

MANDARIN ORIENTAL MANILA

Mandarin Oriental Manila
Paseo de Roxas cor. Makati Ave. Makati City
Tel. 750-8888
www.mandarinoriental.com

Edsa Shangri-La MANILA

Edsa Shangri-la Manila
1 Garden Way, Ortigas Center, Manila
Tel. 633-8888
www.shangri-la.com

Shangri-La's Mactan Island Resort CEBU, PHILIPPINES

Mactan Island Resort
Punta Engano Road, Lapu Lapu Cebu
Tel. (632) 231-0288/Fax (632) 231-1688
www.shangri-la.com

WATERFRONT CEBU CITY HOTEL & CASINO

Waterfront Hotel Lahug
1 Salinas Drive, Lahug Cebu City
Tel. (6332) 232-6888/Fax (6332)232-6880
www.waterfronthotels.net

WATERFRONT MACTAN

Waterfront Hotel Mactan
1 Airport Road, Lapu Lapu City, 6015
Tel. (632) 340-4888/fax (632) 340-5693
www.waterfronthotels.net

MANILA PAVILION

Manila Pavilion Hotel
UN Avenue, Ermita, Manila, 1000
Tel. (632) 526-1212 /fax (632) 526-2552
www.manilapavilion.com.ph.

THE GARDEN PLAZA

Garden Plaza Hotel & Suites
1030 Belen St., Paco, Manila
Tel. (632) 522-4835/ fax (632) 522-4840

City Garden Suites

City Garden Suites
115BA Mabini St., Ermita, Manila
Tel. 536-1451 Fax. 524-4844
Email:cityreservations@citygardenhotels.com

City Garden Hotel-Makati
Makati Ave., cor. Kalayaan St., Makati City
Tel. (02) 899-1111Fax. (02) 899-1415
Email: makati:citygardenhotels.com

PALM PLAZA HOTEL

Palm Plaza Hotel
Pedro Gil corner M. Adriatico Sts., Manila
Tel. (02) 522-1000 Fax 525-8013
www.palmplazahotel.com

THE ROYAL MANDAYA HOTEL DAVAO

Royal Mandaya Hotel
J. Palma Gil St. Davao City
Tel. (082) 225-8888/fax (082) 225-1888

Camp John Hay Manor
Loakan Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074) 446-0231 to 50

City Travel Hotel

City Travel Hotel
15 Kisad Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074) 445-0456 / Fax (074) 445-0457

the Golden Pine

Golden Pine Hotel and Restaurant
Intersection of Camino St. and Legarda
Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074)444-9970 to 71/740-8975/
Fax. (074) 446-0704
Email: goldenpinehotle@skyinet.net

TAAL VISTA HOTEL

Taal Vista Hotel
Managed by Fuego Hotels & Properties
Km. 60 Aguinaldo Highway, Tagaytay City
Tel. (632) 886-4325, (6346) 413-1000
Email : taalvista@fuegohotels.com

SUMMER PLACE HOTEL

Summer Place Hotel
Km. 288 Marcos Highway, Baguio City
Tel. :(074) 446 0560, 446.5400-01
www.SummerPlaceBaguio.com

The Regent Hotel
Elias, Angeles St., Naga City
Tel. (6354) 4722626 / Fax (6354) 4722525

Great Holidays at Fuego hotels

THIS SEASON THE WORLD RENOWNED Pearl Farm Beach Resort, breathtaking Taal Vista Hotel and the exclusive Club Punta Fuego celebrates a Filipino and Spanish Christmas. Surprise your loved ones with a tropical Christmas holiday at the Pearl Farm Beach Resort, with very reasonable package rates and holiday activities, for the entire family. On Dec. 24, enjoy an impressive Christmas dinner buffet with your loved ones at the Maranao Restaurant followed by a traditional Christmas Eve mass, and rejoicing with a festive Noche Buena complete with a fantastic display of fireworks. A fun-filled Christmas Day is in store for kids with loads of games, prizes and surprises. Sing along to favorite Christmas carols with the children from Samal Island while having a sumptuous lunch. Welcome the New Year at the new Malipano Pavilion with great food, great company, a fabulous fireworks exhibition, and party till the wee hours of the morning.

Spend a great holiday with your family at the breathtaking Taal Vista Hotel amidst the cool climate of Tagaytay City. Partake of sumptuous weekend theme buffets while enjoying a lively cultural show all weekends of December. Have a pick from a wide array of favorite Filipino and Spanish snacks and pastries at "Merienda Cena" all weekends of the month and listen to "Villancicos de Navidad" performed by a merry choir. Jolly old St. Nicholas awaits kids at "Santas Corner" to give out treats every weekend from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. Treat yourself and your loved ones to sweets and deli items found at the "Carroza Navidena"; also perfect for "pasalubong". "Christmas Eve Dinner" at the hotel is a delightful sit-down full-course dinner with a glass of red wine or choice of a standard drink. Christmas Day Lunch is a "Fiesta" of Filipino and Spanish favorites at the café on the ridge after which the children can join the "Paskong Palaro" at the ridge area with exciting and fun traditional Filipino games plus lots of prizes.

It's going to be a merry month this December as Club Punta Fuego celebrates Christmas to the hilt with holiday activities galore for members. Join the "Fiesta del Fuego" on Dec. 11 with a Fiesta lunch buffet, games and pabitin at the San Diego Restaurant in celebration of the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Be part of the "Gift Giving" on Dec. 16 as we share blessings and donations to the kids of the nearby barangays. On Christmas day, celebrate Yuletide by the beach at "Terrazas Family Day" with special holiday selections together with some carols and an entire day of fun and games. Be part of the "Fuego Challenge" on Dec. 30 starting off with a Golf Tournament and Fun Run in morning followed by cocktails in the evening wherein paintings by Cesar Lozano will be auctioned off. Proceeds of these activities will go to the Punta Fuego Foundation Inc. It's an "Open Door" celebration on Dec. 31 as the club welcomes the New Year with free cocktails and yummy hot chocolate at the San Diego Restaurant.

Maligayang Pasko! Feliz Navidad!

Fuego Hotels & Properties manage/operate Pearl Farm Beach Resort, Taal Vista Hotel & Club Punta Fuego. For reservations and inquiries please call (02) 750-1999 or log on to our website www.fuegohotels.com.

TOAST TO ROASTS AT THE BELLEVUE

Christmas dinners are incomplete without the traditional roasts to grace the table and of course, the hungry palates of its diners. The Bellevue Hotel, the dining hub of the south offers succulent roasts cooked to perfection. Choose from Sugar-glazed Ham, Roast Tom Turkey with Stuffing or Roast Australian Prime Rib available for roasting by the kilo. Call 771-8181 for inquiries.

LANDBANK HOLDS TRAINING AT THE EXECUTIVE PLAZA HOTEL

Landbank Countryside Development Foundation Inc recently had a two days training on Internal Control for Countryside Financial Institutions at the Aguinaldo Ballroom of The Executive Plaza Hotel. Shown in the photo are the participants of the seminar with their speaker Ernesto I. Guevarra (seated, center) and Kristine Paras - account manager (second row, far left) of The Executive Plaza Hotel.

Dusit Hotel Nikko: Your holiday party planner

THE MUCH TALKED-ABOUT PARTIES AND fabulous social gatherings happen right within the elegant interiors of the Dusit Grand Ballroom. Many attest to experiences of highly successful occasions and marvelous feasts as complemented by the specially designed packages and well-planned events of Dusit Hotel Nikko.

From a minimum of a hundred to a high of a thousand guests, the hotel's Christmas Party Packages are designed for specific groups and thematic settings. Special inclusions and courtesies for guaranteed enjoyment of the affairs are offered.

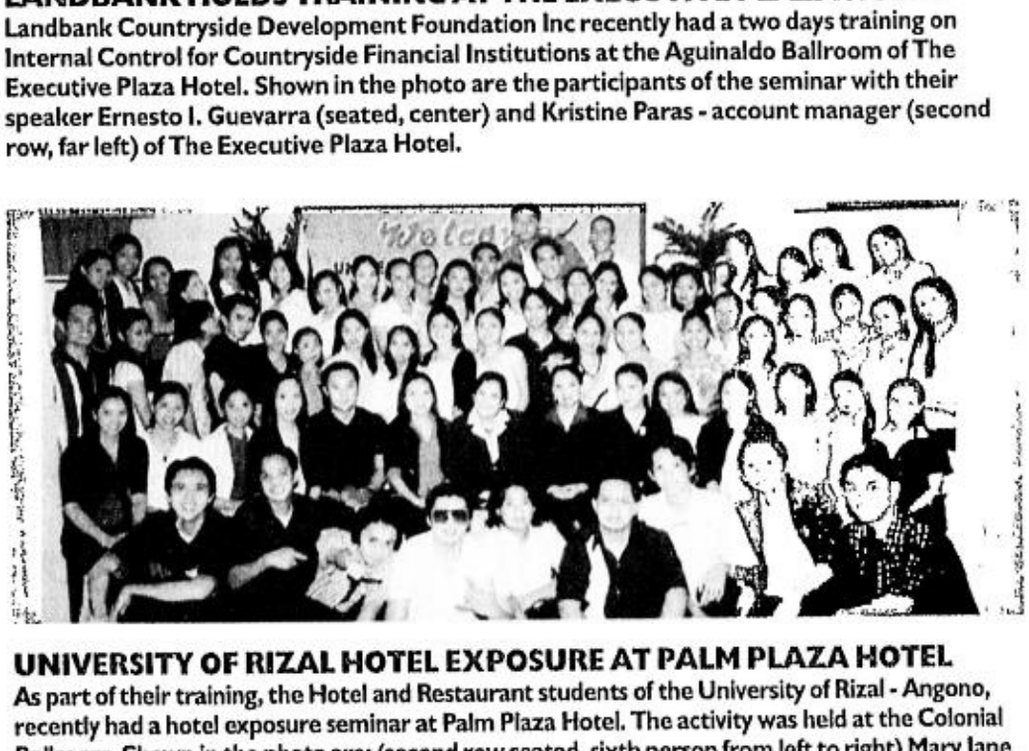
Consider the standard amenities:

- Free round of iced tea
- Gift Certificates to the hotel's outlets
- Waived corkage fees
- Complimentary guest book with pen
- Christmas centerpieces
- Ice carving on the buffet table

Amenities and quantity of each of the above varies according to the number of guaranteed guests. Complimentary use of mobile disco as well as Gift Certificates for overnight accommodations in the hotel may be provided for 250 guests and above.

With this, we welcome you. Be our special guest.

For inquiries and reservations, please call the Banquet Office at 812-3718 or 867-3333 extensions 3311 to 3315.



UNIVERSITY OF RIZAL HOTEL EXPOSURE AT PALM PLAZA HOTEL

As part of their training, the Hotel and Restaurant students of the University of Rizal - Angono, recently had a hotel exposure seminar at Palm Plaza Hotel. The activity was held at the Colonial Ballroom. Shown in the photo are: (second row seated, sixth person from left to right) Mary Jane de Andres - professor and organizer of the activity, Ghie T. Gomez - The Palm Hotels corporate director of sales, Cynthia Balindoa - Cocoy's Restaurant's food and beverage supervisor, Maricel Modelo - Palm Plaza Hotel's banquet account manager and URS HRM students.

'Morena' royale

By Barbi Chan
Contributor

THERE ARE SO MANY variations in skin tones among *morenas*. Some are on the lighter side, while others border on dark mahogany.

Eighty percent of Filipinos are in the "in between" color, which is light chocolate-brown skin with yellow undertones.

MAKEUP: BARBI CHAN(0917-8460738)
MODEL: LORENA

I love putting make up on *morena* people, because I believe their skin is their best asset. The key here is to just bring out its natural glow. Because of its color, the skin reflects light differently, giving off some kind of luminosity and radiance.

Concealer. Use yellow-toned concealer to lighten dark circles. Try Fanny Serrano stick concealer, since it's made for medium-toned skin.

Foundation. Finding the right shade of base can be tricky. As with the concealer, look for foundation with a yellow base but also with a bit of orange, red or blue tone.

A common problem in foundations is when they turn out to be too grayish or chalky on the skin. The culprit here is using a shade that is on the pink tone, or using a translucent, whitish powder.

Always go for deep warm shades like camel, chocolate and medium beige. A good brand to try is Fasio liquid foundation in natural tan.

Cheeks. Deep bronze will complement *morena* skin. Plum, rose or deep pink will also look good. Maybelline Blush Brush in coral pink is perfect for this skin tone. You can also try Laura Mercier bronzing powder.

Eyes. Browns, chocolates, caramel, oranges, golds and toasts are the perfect shades for *morena* eyes. Gold and copper make the eyes stand out.

Line the eyes with green or blue to make them pop out. Avoid using brown liner because this make the eyes look tired.

I love Purella in vavavoom because it has four colors that are really complementary to the *morena* skin.

Lips. When it comes to lip color, sky is the limit! Pale pink will give an air of mystery, red is seduction, and brownish orange equals the girl-next-door look.

You can also use the shades of mocha, gold, berry and burgundy.

For the hair, a *morena* usually needs lighter highlights to bring out her beautiful color. With Lorena, we decided to give her full bangs to cover her prominent forehead. This also made her look 10 years younger.

Letty of Salon Paradiso parted Loren's hair on the opposite side to give the illusion of a thicker crown. For her highlights, we used light chestnut brown to make her hair appear softer. The colored highlights also complemented her skin tone, making her look healthier and glowing.

It is human nature to want what we don't have. *Mestizas* want to have a tan, while *morenas* want to be white. This is not a bad thing. I believe, though, that the most important thing is to appreciate the beauty of one's individuality. Love what you have.

Bat those extra lashes!

How to:
Fake eyelashes

Want dramatic, sexy lashes that go on for miles? Mascara alone can only do so much! False eyelashes are great for giving your eyes more glamour. All you need is patience and a steady hand. Here is how it's done:

1st step:

Ensure that your lashes are clean and dry. Since you'll be applying the false lashes over your real ones, curl your lashes before applying the false ones. Keep your chin up and place your curler as close to the roots as possible. Crimp hard, hold for five seconds, release and repeat. Move the tool to mid-length and crimp again. Repeat for additional volume. Repeat with the other eye.

2nd step:

Start with a clean face and draw a steady line right above your lash line with a brown or black eyeliner pencil. Blend it in so it looks natural. After, apply a thin coat of mascara to your natural eyelashes. Be sure to let it dry before you continue. Remove any stray mascara around the eye with a cotton swab dipped in a small amount of eye makeup remover.

TIPS!

* Mascara is always applied after curling the lashes to avoid lash breakage and smearing.
* The whole trick is to apply eyeliner first and use this as a guide when applying the false eyelashes later on.

3rd step:

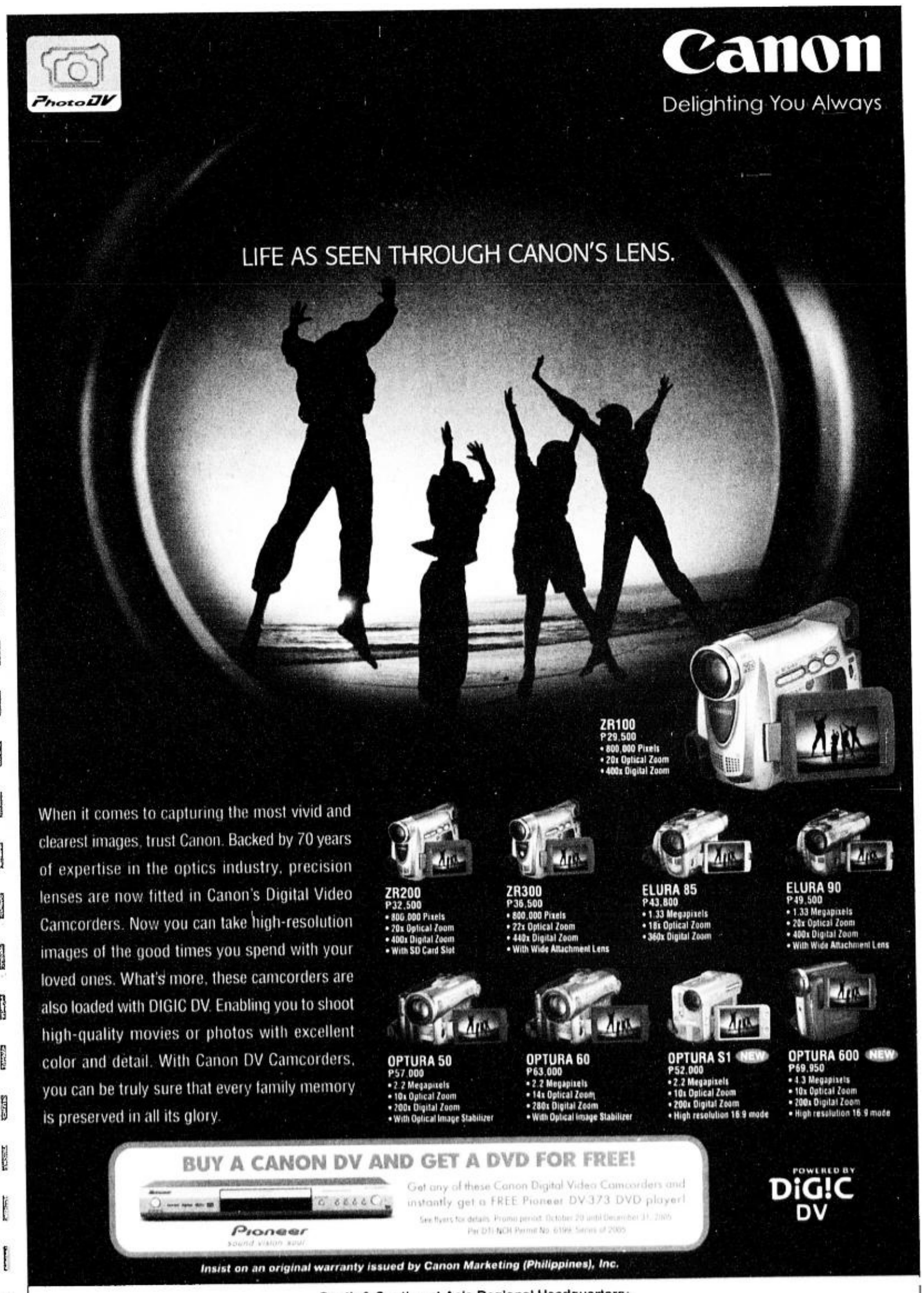
Dab on a thin line of the adhesive to the lash band with a toothpick. Wait a few seconds to allow the glue to become sticky. Press on the lash bands from the inner to the outer corners of your eyes, placing them as close to your own natural lashes. Hold them firmly in place, until they're set. Try to keep it neat, but don't worry if you have a little extra glue showing. It will dry clear.

After putting on your false lashes, apply a very light topcoat of mascara. This extra coat of mascara will help to blend your real eyelashes with the false ones, so that everything looks natural.

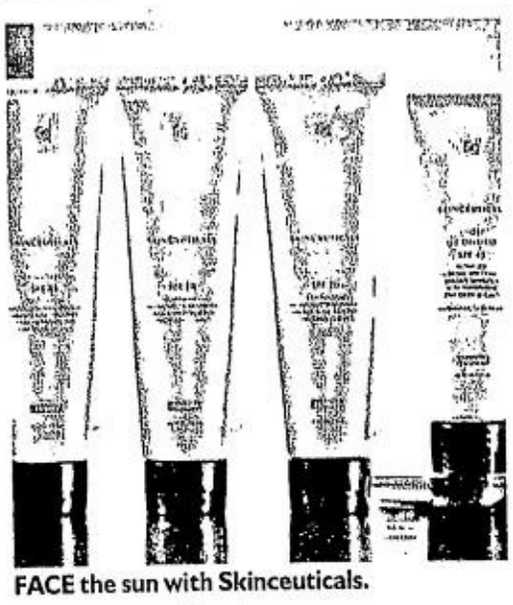
TIP!

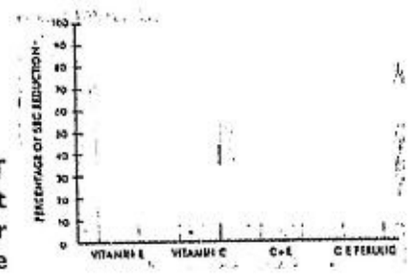
* If you're using full lashes, this should follow the natural line of your own lashes. Trim them with sharp scissors to accommodate your needs.

PHOTOGRAPHY PAOLO PINEDA (0918-9375498)
MAKEUP MARGE ENRIQUE (0917-9009739)
STYLING MINELLI BAUTISTA
MODEL MARILEN FAUSTINO (PMAP)



Sun protection times eight


FACE the sun with Skinceuticals.



WHAT you get in your bottle

DUE TO INSISTENT PUBLIC DEMAND, I have finally changed my Makeover 911 photo effective last week. By insistent, I mean people have resorted to begging and idle threats to get the "severe pose" changed.

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

Instead of doing my own hair and makeup as I had done in the past, I decided to have them done at Tinette and Co. Salon (tel. 8933091). My hair was set and styled by Lorna in a full-bodied wave with big long ringlets. Sexy hot hair was the only way to describe it.

My makeup was done by Dodi, who has apprenticed with big makeup artist names such as Patrick Rosas and Barbi Chan. He used classic colors that would not look dated, and a look that was elegant but timeless, so I would register well in photographs (I am never photogenic).

As I was already there, I could not resist having the trademark bikini wax with Lyn, whose hands were so light you couldn't feel the sting even on the most sensitive areas, and whose work was very thorough.

Topical antioxidant

By now, a lot of us know that oxidative stress caused by the sun is the major cause of premature aging. Oxidative stress also causes loss of elasticity and hyperpigmentation. Calendar years only account for 10 percent of our skin aging.

Skinceuticals, the company known for its non-greasy but potent sunblocks and superconcentrated vitamin C serums, has come up with a potent antioxidant serum called C E Ferulic.

We already know the benefits of Vitamin C in repairing skin damage. What we don't know is that topical C boosts the skin's sun-protection ability two times more, and adding E to the mix will increase it four times higher.

ANTI-AGING and the most protection in this serum

Skinceuticals has come up with a potent antioxidant serum called C E Ferulic

Now with the discovery of Ferulic acid, efficiency is increased eight-fold. Ferulic acid is a component found in all plants, protecting them from the ravages of the sun. This is really handy for them, because unlike us, they can't walk to the nearest shade for protection and relief.

Latest research shows that sunblock only blocks 45-55 percent of free radicals, leaving skin still vulnerable to environmental damage. C E Ferulic provides eight times the photo protection and anti-aging benefits we need, and reduces sunburn cells by up to 96 percent in UV-treated skin.

C E Ferulic treatments are best applied in the morning to maximize antioxidant protection. There is no need to apply it at night as it already works for up to four days, and once applied to and absorbed by the skin, it cannot be rubbed or washed off.

I would still apply it daily, though, and use sunscreen above it as my day cream to provide almost total photo protection. According to Skinceuticals doctor Dr. Sheldon Pinnel, nothing beats clothes for total SPF protection. So our moms who wear gigantic hats and long-sleeved shirts in the beach do have the right idea for sun protection!

As mentioned earlier, Skinceuticals sunblock does not leave a greasy white cast on the skin, but comes out matte and natural-looking. For inquiries regarding C E Ferulic call D'mark, the exclusive Philippine distributor, at 2424242, or visit www.skinceuticals.com.

Skin brightening

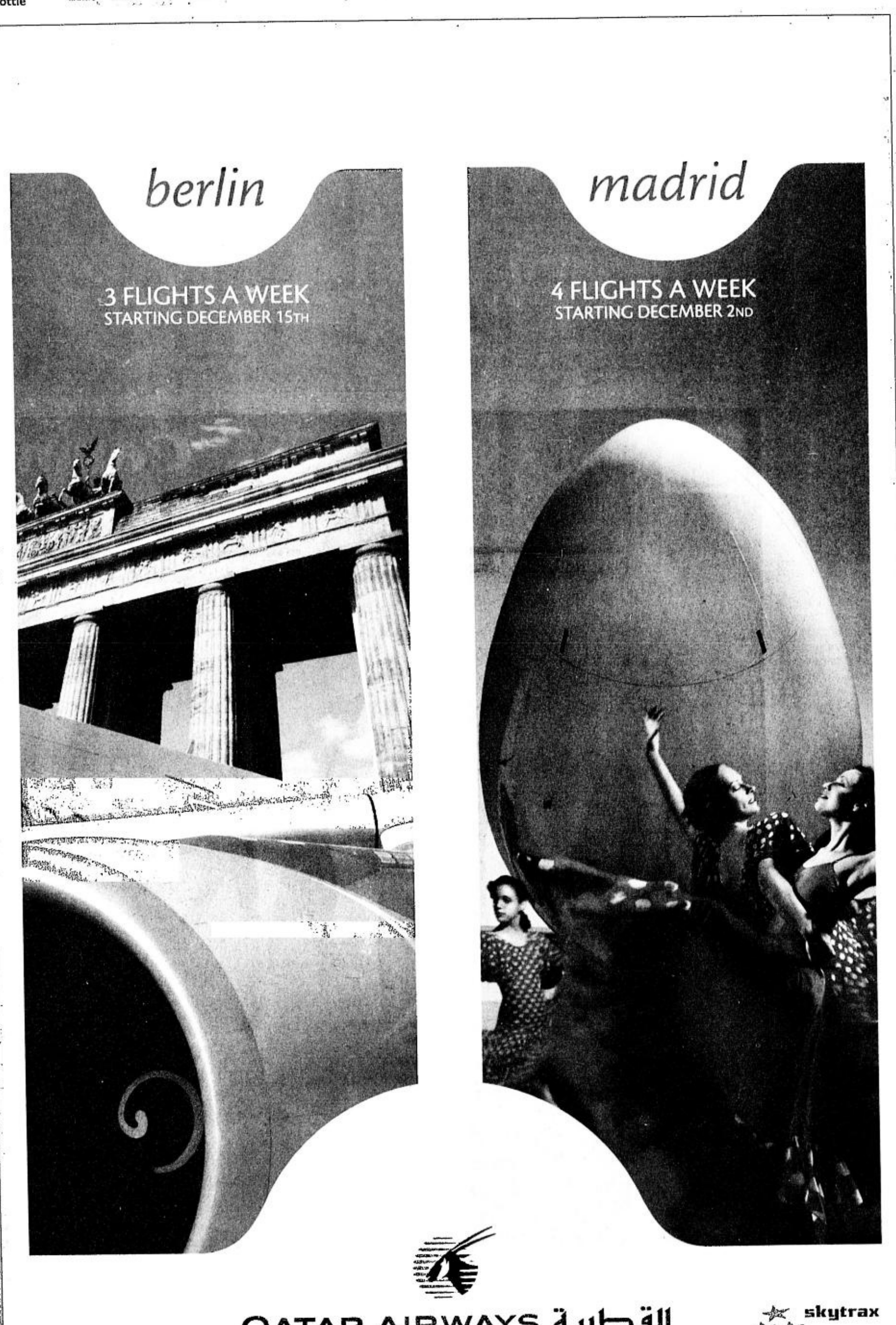
For reasonably priced antioxidant skincare, especially for basic needs like cleansing, toning and face scrubs, check out Cosmoderm products. Its skin-brightening line, called Light and Bright, has Nanosphere Vitamin C as its potent ingredient. The brand's products are in the P200 range.

The anti-aging line contains CoQ10 and Vitamin A, the best skin-firming and wrinkle-fighting combo, according to my supplement research. So far, I have only tried the Light and Bright Spot treatment cream, and am very impressed with the texture. Its active ingredients are known skin lighteners such as kojic acid, Bearberry and licorice, all known melanin inhibitors.

Vitamin A exfoliates the skin, allowing new, smooth baby skin to emerge, while Nanosphere Vitamin C, small enough to penetrate pore openings and cells to brighten skin, prevent and correct damage.

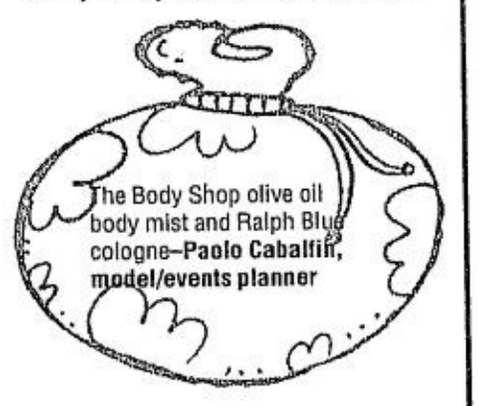
An unexpected favorite of mine is Cosmoderm's Bath Senses shower gel in Aqua Fresh, which has that concentrated marine scent comparable to brand names. I use it to increase the longevity and scent of my aquatic fragrances such as Loewe Aire, Ralph Cool and Cool Water woman. Call Cosmoderm's hotline at 6361166 for inquiries.

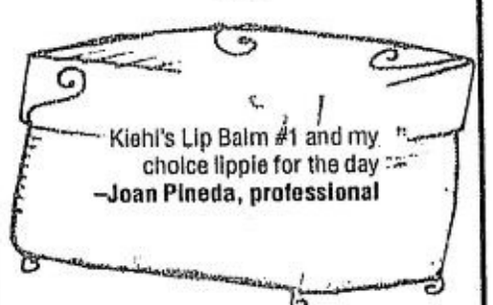
E-mail the author at kinnysalas@yahoo.com

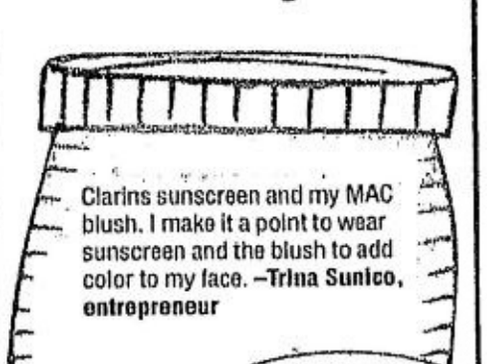


What's your fave mix?

Compiled by Ria Francisco-Prieto







PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

LIFESTYLE

For feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback:
inquirer life name/age/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

LOVELY lavender cabana pants with button accents with yellow sleeveless layered top

LIFE-STYLED by Thelma Sioson-San Juan on page G4

TEAL-BLUE cabana pants with two side pockets, candy-colored top

Cabana craze

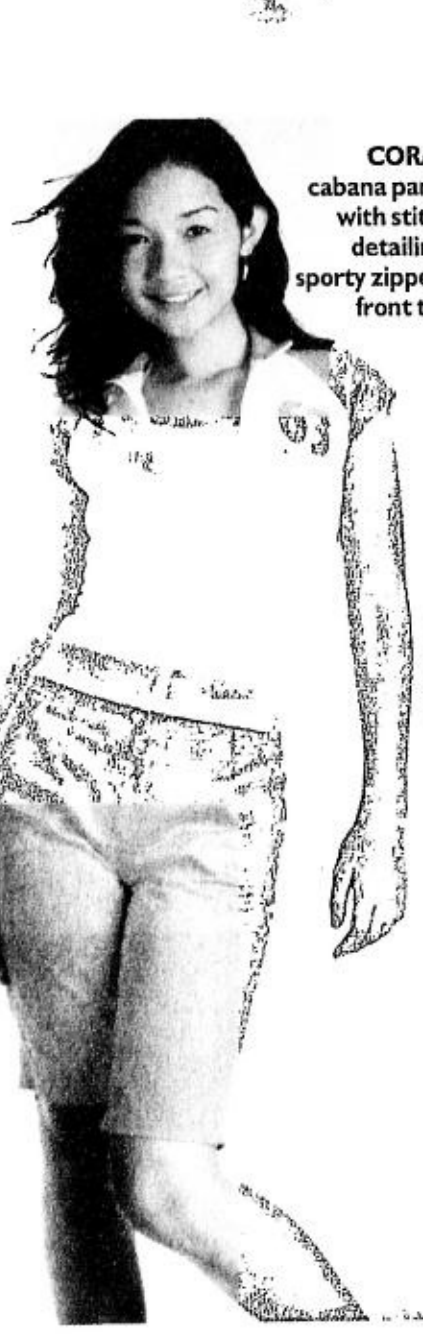
GIRLS ARE PLAYING IT SHORT and sweet with cabana pants now making a splash at SM.

While cabana pants first emerged as resort wear in some of the world's hottest vacation spots (Bahamas, the Mediterranean and the Hamptons), these are also cool holiday options in eye-candy colors—blush pink, teal blue, coral, lime green and lavender.

Updated with utilitarian details such as pockets, stitching, buttons and buckles, cabanas go well with layered strappy tops, cute baby tees and zipped-front tops.

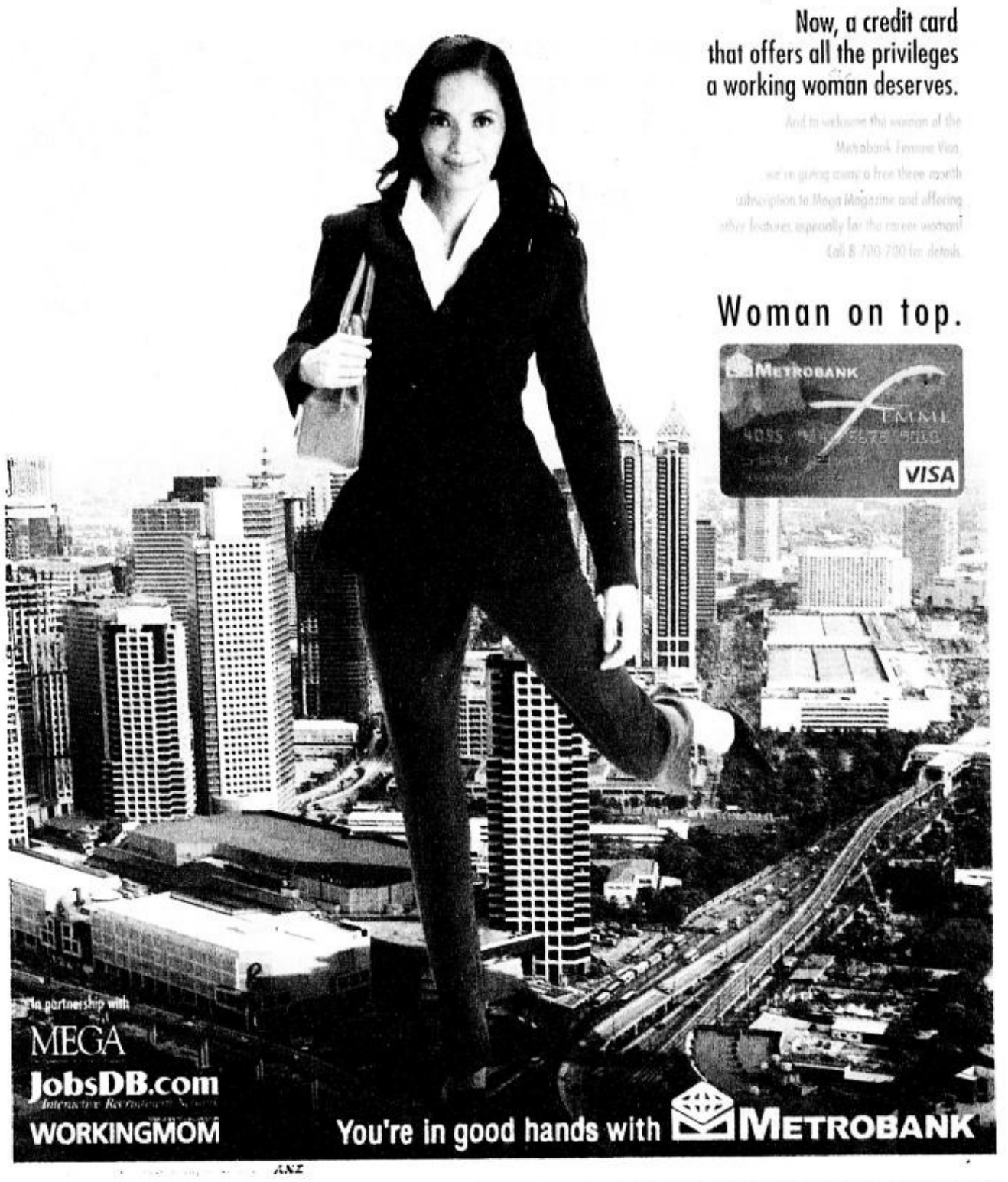
The cabana pants collection is available at the Girls Teens Department of all SM stores.

KHAKI cabana pants with pocket and buckle accents, layered top



CORAL cabana pants with stitch detailing, sporty zipped-front top

PINK textured cabana pants, white cocktail tee



ASIA Tatler and Philippine Tatler hot team. Lyndah Bartolome, Pierre Calasanz, Susan Schwartz, Rachel Plecas, Jean Claude Marchand, Lina Ross, Irene Francisco, Dr. Boya Mohindar, Barrie Goodridge, Anne Mok, Albert Lo, Blue Carreon, Chit Lijauco, Lynne Palma, and *moi*

THE TANTOCO FAMILLE. Executive vice president, brilliant Anton Huang, and stunningly gorgeous wife Nina Herrera; Rustan's patriarch Ambassador Bienvenido Tantoco Sr. and daughter Nedy Tantoco

POWER COUPLES. Business magnate Alberto "Dong" Rosal and wife, Linda Legaspi R.; fun Nancy Carlos and husband, mega banker Jun Tambunting

PHILIPPINE Tatler managing director Irene Martel Francisco and Asian Tatler group head Dr. Boya Mohindar (right) hand the P1 million check to Sen. Dick Gordon, Red Cross president, and Rosa Rosal, PNRC governor

GORGEOUS beauties Ruffa Gutierrez and Donita Rose flank hotshot FEP executive vice president Dennis Valdes.

Celebrating in style

CAR-COLLECTOR Louie Ablaza and wife Mellie, cosmo Manille's No. 1 hostess

CEBU'S star couple. Business magnate Michel Lhuillier and wife Amparito

FASHION ICONS. Tina Ocampo and Hong Kong-based Audrey Puckett-Chiu

MOTHER-TO-BE (her fourth) Kit Silverio Z. and husband Fernando Zobel

ROBBIE Delgado and wife Helen Magsaysay Ho-D.

MARISSA Orosa C. and husband Joey Concepcion

EYE-CATCHING Tessa Prieto-Valdes in her Rajo Laurel outfit

SILK Cocoon's Jean Margaret Lim Goulbourn and Bantay Bata's top gal Gina Lopez

RICKY Delgado and Mandy de la Rama

Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** using **Kodak** EasyShare system

IT WAS THE HOTTEST TICKET of the month and all roads led to Shangri-La Hotel Makati, *palanggas*, as the country's hottest selling lifestyle magazine, the Philippine Tatler, celebrated its fourth hot year with the international, *trés* elegant Philipppine Tatler Ball, dahlings.

The event was held in collaboration with HSBC, Smart Infinity, Sony Ericsson, BMW, FurnItalia and, *naturellement*, the Makati Shangri-La.

As the creamiest of the crème de la crème of the country's *alta sociedad* breezed into the hotel's foyer in their elegant best, they were amazed by the striking Art-Deco look created by talented **Robert Blancaflor** of 1818 Flowers. They marveled at the back-lit photo panels that showcased the magazine's eye-catching pictorials the past four years, featuring some of the country's most influential personalities, including businessmen, politicians, society mavens and fashion icons.

As the foyer got filled, elbow-to-elbow, it was time to get the ball rolling, *palanggas*, in the grand Rizal Ballroom. The 550 chic invitees were all aware that, like all Tatler balls in the past, it was also a night for highlighting the magazine's socio-civic awareness.

A visible difference

This was underscored in the short, but to-the-point, opening speech of brilliant managing director and working heiress **Irene Martel Francisco,** who noted, "As we chronicle the lives of the most eminent and glamorous personalities in the country, we find ourselves in a rare position that allows us to make a visible difference in society."

In previous years, the magazine has made contributions to several organizations, including Bantay Kalikasan, the Makabata Foundation, and the Children's Hour. Following the Tatler tradition, a generous donation, a cool P1 million, was presented to the beneficiary that night—the Philippine National Red Cross.

Receiving the check from Irene Francisco and Dr. **Boya Mohindar,** chair of the Asian Tatler group, were Sen. **Richard Gordon** and gorgeous-as-ever **Rosa Rosal,** president and governor of the PNRC, respectively.

One of the highlights of the fantastic event was the announcement about Asian Tatler's exciting new partnership with the Switzerland-based media empire, Edipresse Group, no less. Leading the toast for this momentous feat were the brilliant twosome behind Tatler magazine in Asia, witty business magnate Dr. Mohindar and his wife, elegantly stylish and attractive **Lina Ross-Mohindar**, mega publisher and CEO of the Asian Tatler; Irene Francisco; **Jean Claude Marchand,** director of Edipresse Switzerland; **Barrie Goodrich,** managing director of Edipresse Asia; Philippine Tatler's hard-to-beat dedicated editor, **Anton San Diego**; Tatler's social and lifestyle editor, **Maurice Arcache** (as in, *moi*!), plus other hardworking senior officers of the Asian Tatler group who jetted in from their respective countries for this occasion.

After the toast with the bubbly Moet & Chandon and Bacchus wines, dinner was served, an excellent five-course menu by Shangri-La's hard-to-beat executive chef **Chris Romine.** A great performance by the enchanting songstress **Mae Bayot** and an ethnic-inspired dance number by Ballet Philippines followed, capturing the invitees' full attention, *palanggas*.

Exclusive

The Philippine Tatler Ball would not be complete without the exclusive Tatler Awards which honored individuals who had made significant accomplishments in their respective fields of endeavor, thus making their mark in society. With Tatler's editor Anton San Diego and the Princess of the Sea, traffic-stopper **Tessa Prieto-Valdes**, as hosts, the awards were presented by Irene Francisco and Lina Mohindar, with a helping hand from *moi*.

And the recipients were: Ambassador **Bienvenido Tantoco Sr.**, the Pinnacle award; gorgeous statuesque southern beauty and lady of ladies **Gretchen Oppen Cojuangco**, the Most Charitable Force award, being a benefactor of many causes and a contributor to the establishment of the orphanage Casa de la Providencia in Pontevedra, Negros Occidental; Sen. **Manuel Villar**, the Most Distinguished Gentleman award; world-class knit queen, vivacious **Lulu Tan Gan**, the Bonne Vivante award; handsome, *très* in-demand international young businessman, debonaire **Ricky Delgado** , the Most Eligible Bachelor award; young, beautiful and so elegant **Mandy dela Rama-Santos**, the Most Stylish Lady award.

Prince of Alta Moda **Inno Sotto** gave a very touching thank-you speech after receiving the Most Creative Force award. Respected and well-loved couple, Ambassador and banker **Jesus Tambunting** and his wife, beauteous **Marge Ansaldo**, bagged the Most Prominent Couple award, *palanggas*.

Then it was time to rock and roll and the chi-chi personas hit the dance floor and rocked to the big-band music of the fabulous Spirit of '67.

Definitely a fantastic end to a wonderful and memorable evening of fun, celebration and charity, *palanggas*.

BEST DRESSED. One of Tatler's Best Dressed Women, Sigalit Djemal, in a stunning Inno Sotto gown

MARIO Katigbak and Lina Ross-Mohindar

GRETCHEN Oppen Cojuangco and Doris Magsaysay Ho

RICKY Delgado and wife Mandy de la Rama

SANTI Elizalde and wife Marilen Gonzales E.

NICA Mendez and Geovy King

GINA Tambunting Roxas and Lizzie Eder Zobel

KERRY Dunn U. and husband, Alaska Milk Corp. president Fred Uytengsu

BUSINESSMAN Patxi Elizalde and wife Sofia Zobel E.

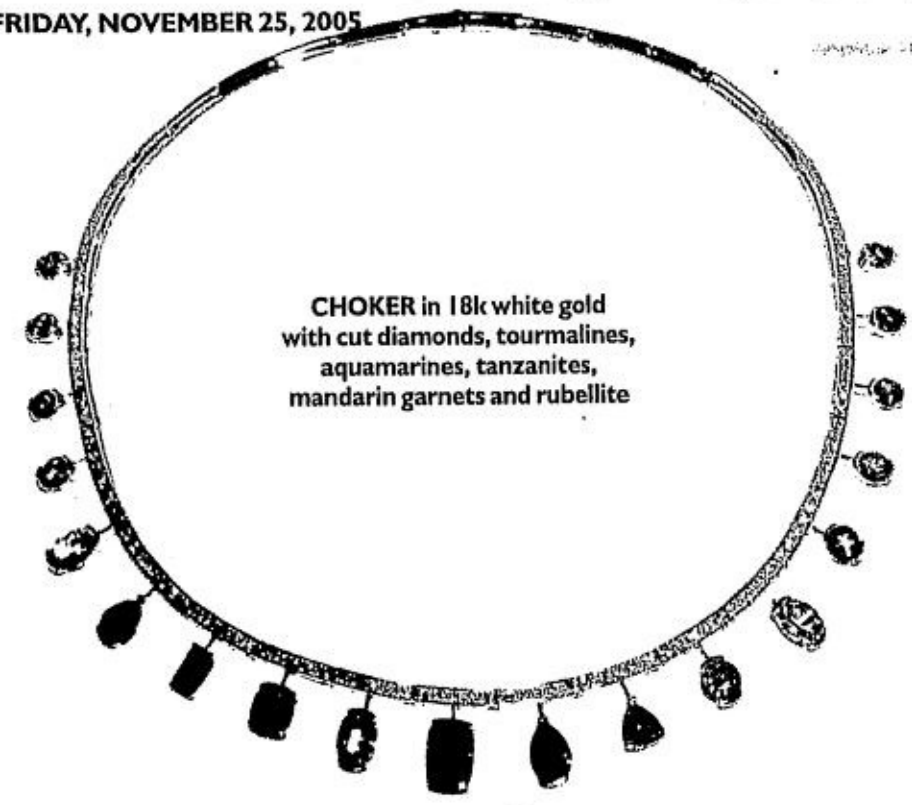
GANG OF THREE. Ching Montinola, Mercy Tuason and Rustan's high-fashion couturier Criselda Lontok

CHAMPAGNE is their drink. Fausto and Ane Preysler with fun Giana Montinola and constant escort Mon Paterno

BUSINESS magnate Paing Hechanova and wife, society's grand dame Mely Concepcion H., renowned world-class jeweler Liding Oledan and son Gabby Oledan

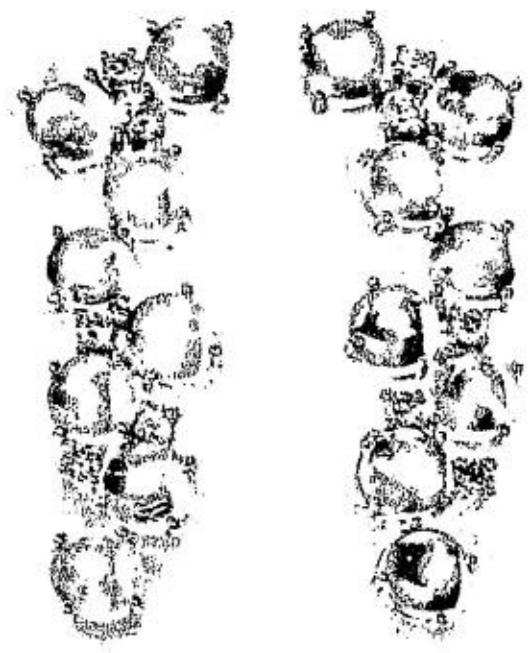
MADAME Imelda Marcos

MANILLE- and Hong Kong-based Wendy Puyat Hotung, top Singapore model Vivien Tan-Vaca and popular Celine Lopez



CHOKER in 18k white gold with cut diamonds, tourmalines, aquamarines, tanzanites, mandarin garnets and rubellite

RING in 18k white gold set with one cushion blue-green tourmaline and 30 brilliant-cut diamonds (left). Earrings in 18k white gold set with six tourmalines, two aquamarines, six oval pink tourmalines and six brilliant-cut diamonds (top). Dangling earrings in 18k white gold set with 16 moonstones and 10 brilliant-cut diamonds (right)



A feast of moonstones and tourmalines

IN CELEBRATION OF HIS 25TH anniversary in the business, master jeweler Hans Brumann presents yet another elegant collection of timeless pieces using tourmalines and moonstones. Brumann's much-awaited annual show has gained acclaim in the past for his impeccable renditions of fine jewelry pieces using gold, pearls, jade, sapphire, spinel and garnet. Brumann never fails to excite his clientele with stunning designs that brim with refinement and are never too ornate.

Prepare to celebrate the brilliant colors of the holiday season with over 100 pieces on exhibition at Brumann's tourmaline and moonstone collection on Dec. 1-8, at the Lifestyle Wing of Rockwell Power Plant.

Brumann founded Hans Brumann Inc. (HBI) in 1978. It began as a small jewelry shop in Makati that had Manila's elite and foreign expats as its loyal clientele.

The shop built its reputation on its timeless but modern masterpieces and its incomparable craftsmanship. Today, Brumann—Swiss by birth, Filipino by choice—is a distinguished figure in the Philippine jewelry business.

Brumann has lately opened two more shops at the Power Plant Mall in Rockwell and at The Podium.

Among the treasures created by the premiere craftsman include "Cleopatra" neckpiece in 18k yellow gold with three bi-color fancy-shaped tourmalines and three brilliant-cut diamonds, "Raindrops" dangling earrings in 18k white gold set with four pear-shaped rubellites, 18 moonstones and 34 brilliant-cut diamonds, and "Tower" ring in 18-k white gold with one mint-green tourmaline and 104 brilliant-cut diamonds.

Tourmaline is adored for its unique radiation of different brilliant colors. This precious stone commonly appears in green, though it can range from brown, violet, green, pink, or in a dual-colored pink and green.

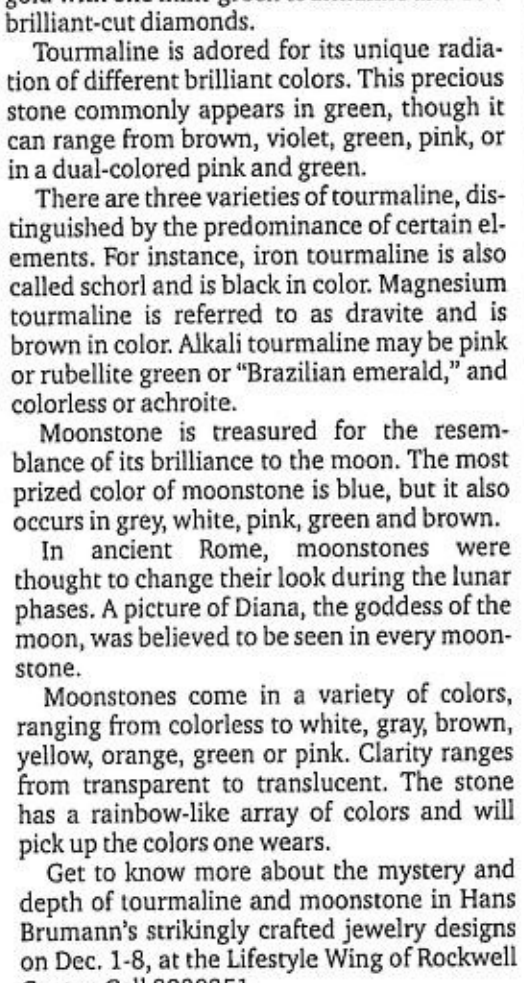
There are three varieties of tourmaline, distinguished by the predominance of certain elements. For instance, iron tourmaline is also called schorl and is black in color. Magnesium tourmaline is referred to as dravite and is brown in color. Alkali tourmaline may be pink or rubellite green or "Brazilian emerald," and colorless or achroite.

Moonstone is treasured for the resemblance of its brilliance to the moon. The most prized color of moonstone is blue, but it also occurs in grey, white, pink, green and brown.

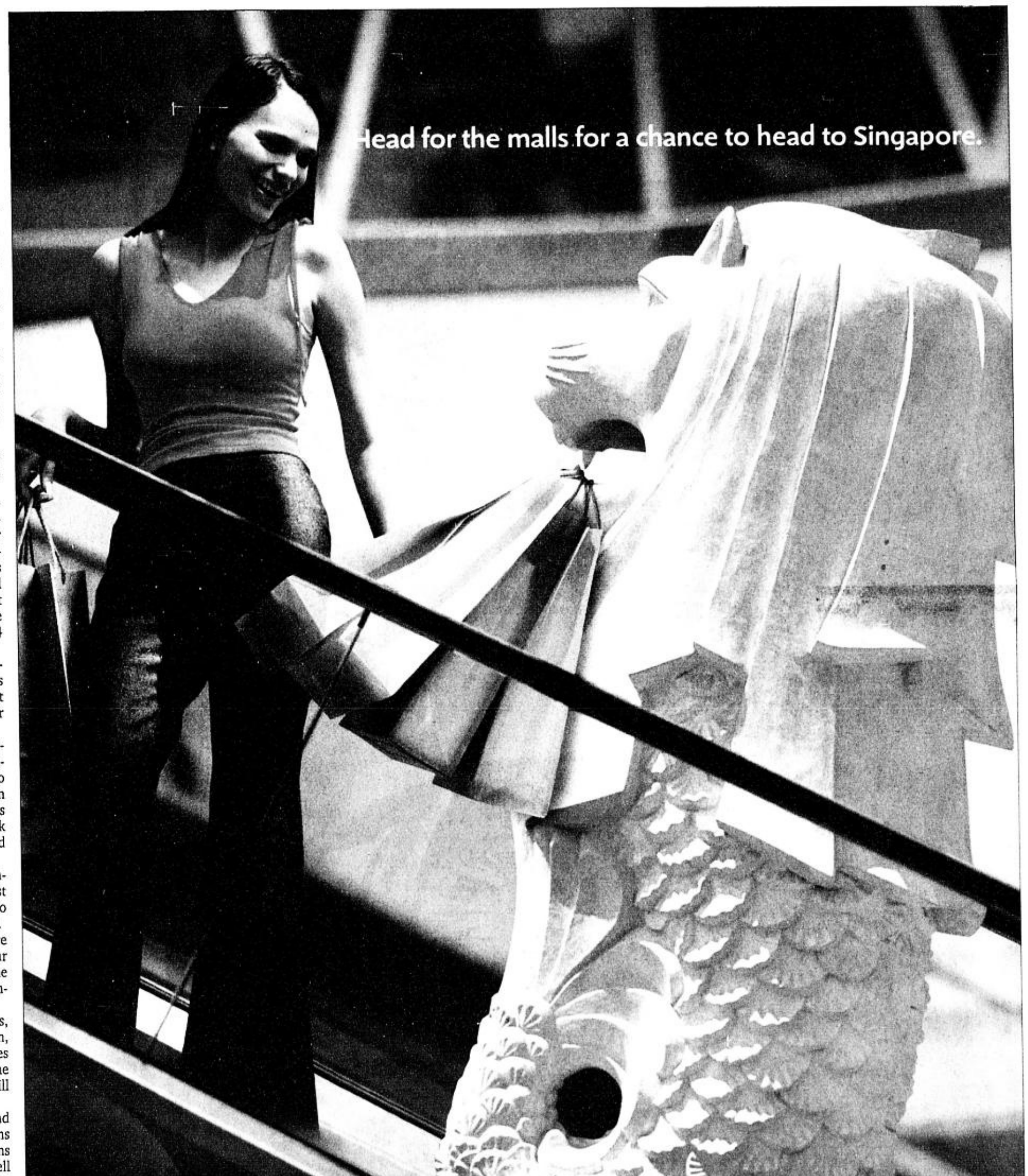
In ancient Rome, moonstones were thought to change their look during the lunar phases. A picture of Diana, the goddess of the moon, was believed to be seen in every moonstone.

Moonstones come in a variety of colors, ranging from colorless to white, gray, brown, yellow, orange, green or pink. Clarity ranges from transparent to translucent. The stone has a rainbow-like array of colors and will pick up the colors one wears.

Get to know more about the mystery and depth of tourmaline and moonstone in Hans Brumann's strikingly crafted jewelry designs on Dec. 1-8, at the Lifestyle Wing of Rockwell Center. Call 8980351.



DANGLING earrings in 18k white gold set with four pear-shaped rubellites, 18 moonstones and 34 brilliant-cut diamonds



How to upgrade that '168 look'

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

From running into Marat Safin in a Shanghai flea market to an afternoon in 'Divi,' the weeks offered good lessons

ONE CHILLY afternoon last week in Shanghai, we were leaving the Xiang Yang flea market when our companion Dr. **Greg Alvior** stopped in his tracks. I overheard him say, "How are you, Mr. Safin? Why are you not playing? Are you really injured?"

I wondered who was this "expat" "Doc" was small-talking in China, of all places.

Then I caught sight of that handsome face—it was **Marat Safin**, the Russian who won the 2005 Australian Open, the tennis celeb the guys, girls and gays in my lifestyle circle swoon over. He was almost incognito in a knit skull cap, rugged jeans and sweatshirt. Almost, since he didn't escape the quick eye of Dr. Alvior.

"Good," he replied, "yes, I'm injured."

One of the top eight tennis champions in the world, Safin didn't join this year's Shanghai Masters Cup because of injury. But there he was in Shanghai nonetheless, roaming the flea market—and running into us.

Tough luck for him. Before we could chat him up, people recognized him so that he had to move on to avoid being mobbed.

It's not every day one gets to watch a Masters Cup—in the new state-of-the-art Qi Zhong Tennis Center, the largest in Asia with its magnolia-shaped roof that opens up to a wintry sky. The spectacle at night is like a flower abloom. And it's not every day one watches modern-day gladiators like **Roger Federer**. Now if only **Roddick, Agassi** and **Nadal** were there, I really would have had something to brag about with my gay friends.

The Shanghai Tennis Masters Cup was a much-awaited experience our Palms Country Club's tennis fanatics saved up for, a personal trip with a bonus thrown in for me—the chance to stay at Pudong Shangri-La, the latest glam destination Shanghai visitors shouldn't pass up.

If you're not into tennis, the above perhaps means nothing to you. But the Shanghai street market should amount to something to Pinoy bargain-hunters, which we all are especially at this gift-giving time of the year.

Guangzhou, Shenzen, Shanghai—these are where our "*tiangge*," Divisoria stuff originate from, in fact, even the stuff of many of our retail stores. Even if you're not into knock-offs, like I am not, the prices in the Shanghai street market would make our "*tiangge*" buys seem even expensive.

QI ZHONG Tennis Center

Examples: we found "pashminas" (of course, they're not the honest-to-goodness stuff) selling for 85 yuan each, which, after good haggling, we got for 10 yuan each (or P80)—perfect gifts; "cashmere" cardigans in colors ranging from hot pink to avocado, taupe, sold for 250 yuan, which we got for 80 yuan each, or 130 yuan if you got two; fully beaded coin purses in the hippest designs (i.e. puppy, monkey, strawberry) going for 5 yuan each; "vintage" evening bags, again fully beaded, going for 80 yuan each.

Tops, coats and jackets were even of greater variety and good fabrics (China is, after all, the world's manufacturing hub). We didn't resist a white nylon windbreaker which looked like Prada, selling for 600 yuan, which we got for 150 yuan.

You get the drift—it's the art of haggling. One should know how to slash it by more than 100 percent. Chinese hawkers get a kick from haggling, and the calculator is the weapon of choice. One just haggles away and pretends to walk away, and they'll surely give it to you.

But just be prepared to buy at the price you marked down. In short, when you hit your rock-bottom price, make sure you mean it and will see the sale through. Otherwise, curses trail you. (I was called "crazy woman" a couple of times, and derived odd enjoyment from it.)

'In' destination

If I got better than passing marks in my Shanghai haggling, it must have been because I was primed for it, thanks to the "in" destination among today's fashionistas and "*sosyalitas*"—the 168 Shopping Mall off Divisoria in Manila.

On a rare trip outside his atelier, the otherwise reclusive **Auggie Cordero** dragged me to 168 a few weeks ago simply because he wanted to see for himself what his "*sosyal*" clients have been crowing about. Good move.

Now I see why model-turned-magazine editor **Romina Urra Gonzalez** spent her birthday bringing her friends to a shopping expedition at 168.

This shopping mall populated by Chinese and Korean stall owners is brimming with shoes and sandals, clothes (I'm up to here with the bohemian, "vintage" styles), bags, fashion accessories (chandelier earrings enough to hang you from the ceiling) and children's wear.

Just pick the right stuff. Upgrade it by mix-matching it with your fine clothes and accessories. I like to call it "trading up the 168 look."

Start with the beaded mules and sandals. They're so common these days, but if you pick the right design and color, you can even wear them to your after-six socials.

I chose black beaded mules which, with its monochromatic black beadwork, looked elegant, and a tan two-inch wedge with delicate beige embroidery that could pass for a Prada. Auggie chose for me a metallic pair of low-heeled mules, its sheen a cross between gold and silver.

The trick is to go for uncommon shades. We spotted a copper evening bag with loops of beads and matte metal handle—vintage elegance, surely a change from the common gold or silver. Auggie also had an eye for metallic bags in subtle hues, like rose pink, moss green and bronze.

Auggie suggested I give myself a break from black evening bags. It's a monotony women can drop. Instead, try color and design for evening purses and clutches so they round up your look.

Try to spot the boleros or cardigans in intricate lace or crushed cottons. Go for the texture when you're buying a top. Paired with your classic skirts, they will look "upgraded."

And 168 could very well be called 250 because you don't go past that price point. You don't pay beyond P220 for shoes. You can go as low as P200 or even lower.

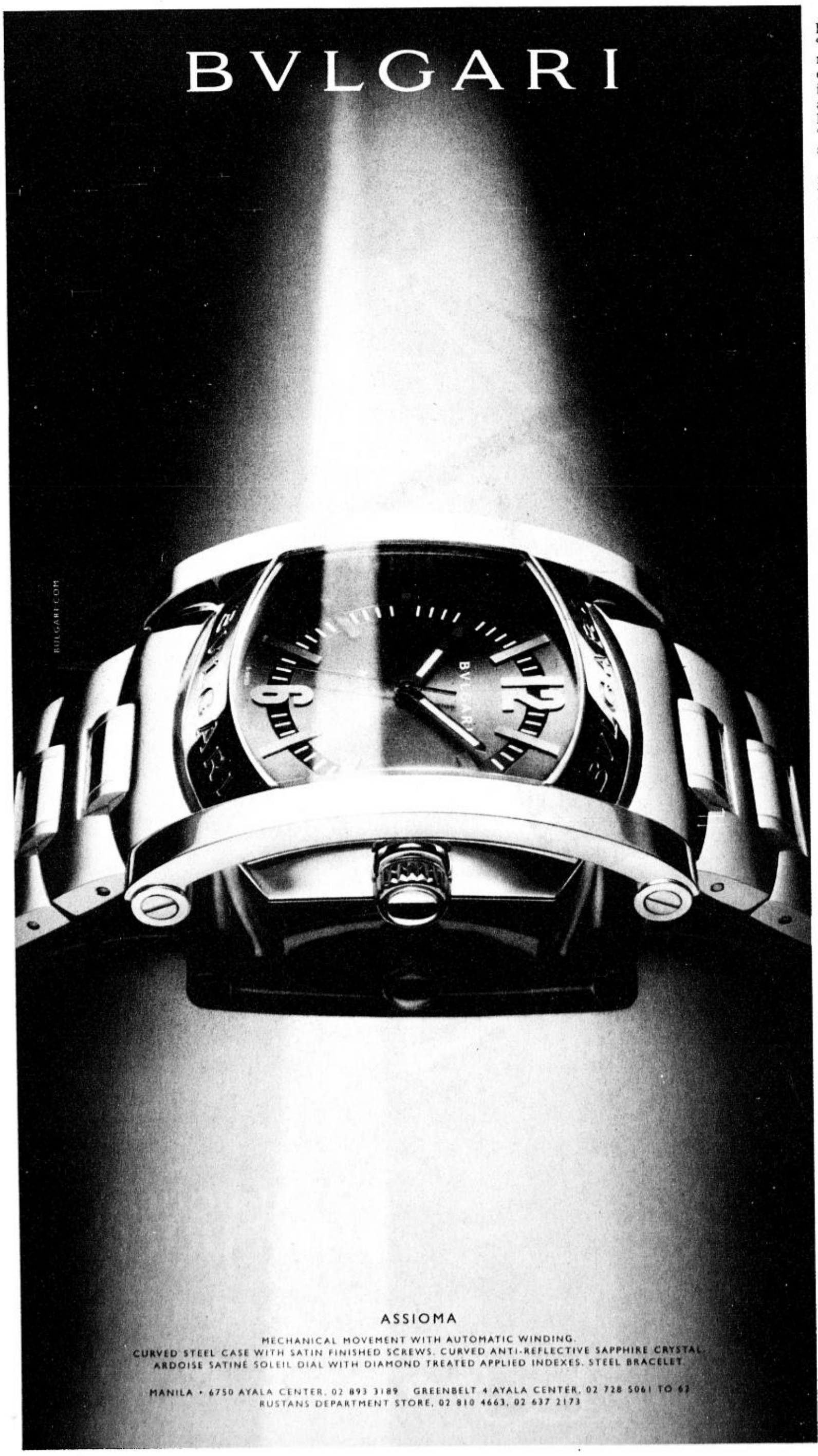
In the neighboring Meisic Mall, I had even better finds. I found classic braided leather belts and got three—one black, another beige, and black-and-white—for P80 each.

The 168 Shopping Mall and many others of its kind in Manila put to test your eye for good design and color, and your ability to pair wardrobe and accessories. Cheap prices have a downside to them—they can make you look cheap as well.

But with your trained eye and finely developed taste, bargain malls can also bring out your independence—a celebration of your individuality. This is the era of trading up.

E-mail the author at thelma_ssanjuan@abs.pinoycentral.com

168 Shopping Mall in Divisoria



Para sa karagdagang kaalaman tungkol sa VAT, tumawag sa
981-8888
o mag-log on sa
www.vatreform.gov.ph
Kakayanin natin 'to!

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2005
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

LIFESTYLE

For feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph
Text us your feedback: Inquirer life name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

(FRONT row, seated) Oj Hofer, Dennis Lustico, Jesus Lloren, (second row, seated) Mike dela Rosa, Tippi Ocampo, Vittorio Barba, Lulu Tan-Gan, Rhett Eala, (third row, standing) Randy Ortiz, Anthony Nocom, Efren Ocampo, Cesar Gaupo

VITTORIO Metrowear 2006

Metrowear show tonight at Rockwell tent

TONIGHT, AT ROCKWELL Tent, 19 of the country's leading names in fashion will unveil their latest collections for "Metrowear," the annual fashion show spearheaded by the country's largest fashion and lifestyle magazine, Metro.

The event, now on its third year, has become one of the most anticipated to-do's on every fashion cognoscenti's calendar because it showcases the latest works of the country's foremost designers.

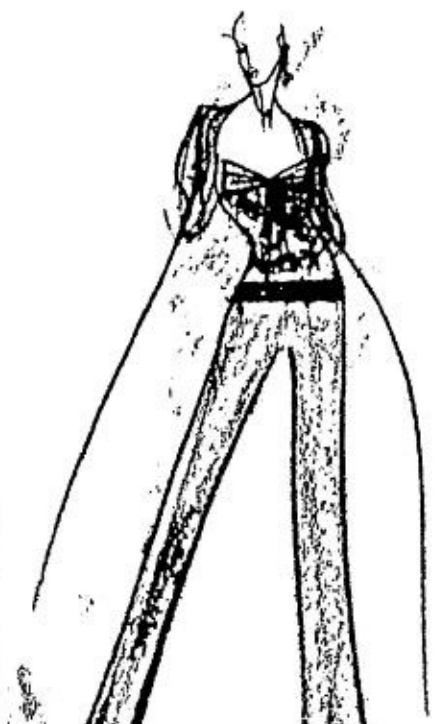
"Modern classic femininity," a fresh take in reinventing and updating the classic casual day-to-night feminine look, will define the collections. Expect a lot of odes to the '60s and girly fashion, but with more subdued, feminine and romantic versions that nevertheless play with combining ultra-slim silhouettes with volume skirts. Seersucker pieces, smock blouses and baby-doll dresses echo the era of dainty, as do tulip skirts, empire-waist dresses and cuffed shorts.

Look out for a lot of crinkled chiffon, brocades, taffetas, satins, and other soft, cozy material like cotton and summer twill. And the colors? Soft and restrained, just perfect to ease this year's hangover from summer's bold colors. A pale palette of yellows, pinks and peaches, with a sprinkling of black, navy and gray highlighted by lighter metallic effects, will rule the runway. White, of course, will also make a major statement.

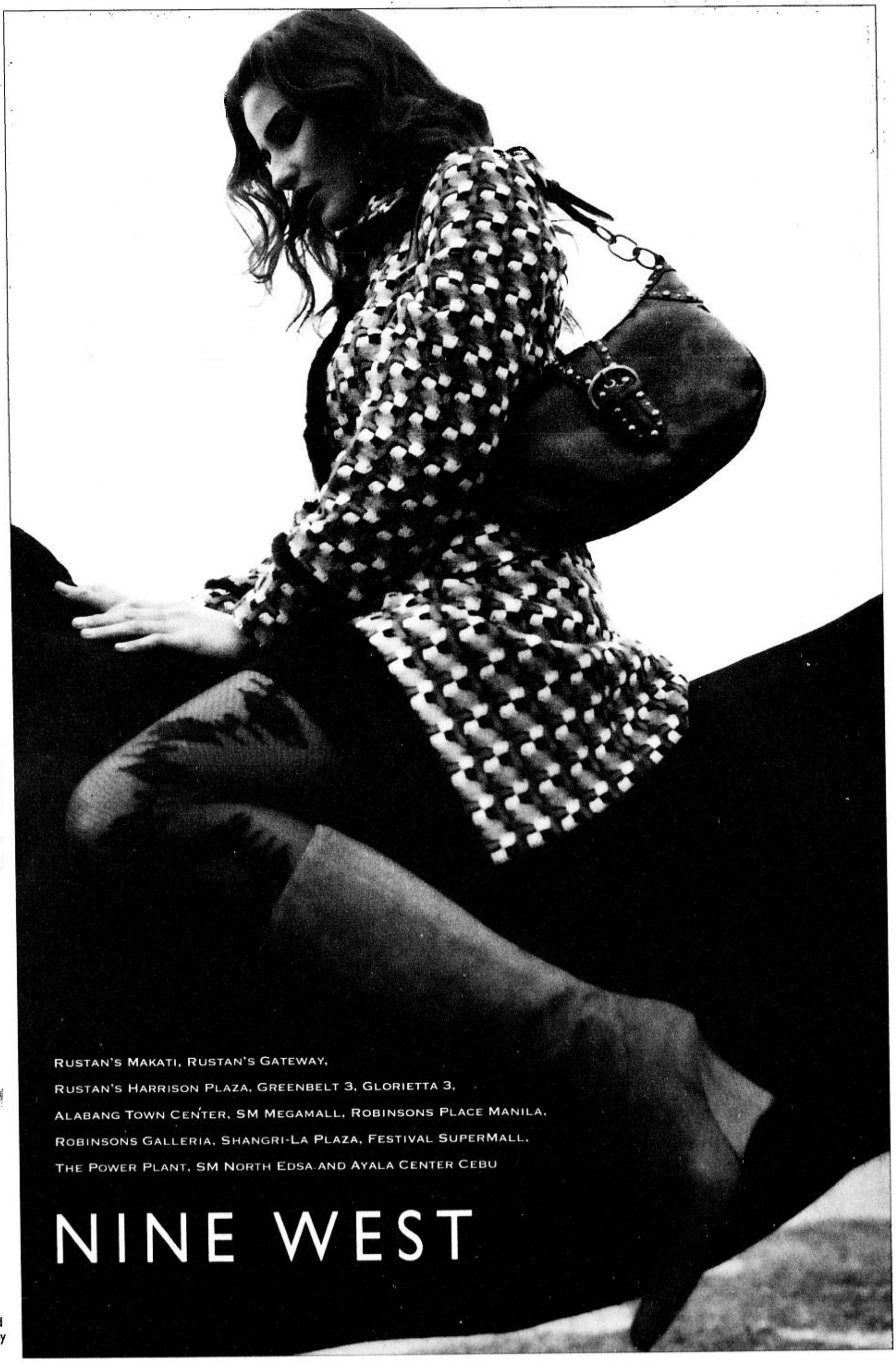
This year's roster of designers include Vittorio Barba, Rhett Eala, Jun Escario, Arcy Gayatin, Katrina Goulborn-Feist, Oj Hofer, Rajo Laurel, Jesus Lloren, Dennis Lustico, Anthony Nocom, Tippi Ocampo, Randy Ortiz, Philip Rodriguez and Frederick Peralta.

Ready-to-wear giants, like Mike dela Rosa, Lulu Tan-Gan, Efren Ocampo and Cesar Gaupo, will be showcasing their newest ideas, along with the much-anticipated return of Auggie Cordero's couture to the fashion runway. Cordero's addition alone to this already glittering lineup is worth the drive to Rockwell.

"Metrowear" is presented by Metro Magazine with Samsung, L'Oreal and Lancôme, with additional support from HSBC, the Lifestyle Network, Studio 23 and ANC.



VINTAGE lace camisole worn with shrug and hipster wide-legged pants with bead detail by Randy Ortiz



Street clothes never looked this good

PIALLETTE studded '40s jacket, brown V-neck cardigan, flounce skirt

CHIFFON kimono dress

TWELFTH STREET BY CYNTHIA Vincent, one of California's hottest designers, turns out a new season of cool, hip clothes that have become a signature of the California girl.

Vincent's rapidly growing celebrity following includes Cameron Diaz, Gwyneth Paltrow, Rachel Bilson and Scarlett Johannson.

Known for its feminine, sexy clothes, the Twelfth Street line has become one of the fastest growing brands in the industry.

Vincent moved from El Paso, Texas, to Los Angeles where she grew up on Twelfth Street and graduated from the prestigious Otis Parsons School of Design. She then moved to London where she quickly rose through the ranks as a designer for several companies before returning to California to set up her own design company. Ten years later, Vincent won the Silver Thimble Award from Ann Cole in 1988 and LA's Rising Star Award.

Vincent launched her current label, Twelfth Street, in 2003 at the LA Fashion Week to rave reviews. Twelfth Street has since become a top seller at upscale specialty stores across the US like Neiman Marcus, Fred Segal, Barneys, Holt Renfrew, Scoop, American Rag and Bergdorf Goodman. It is also poised for stardom at Joyce in Hong Kong and Barneys Japan.

In the Philippines, Twelfth Street by Cynthia Vincent is available exclusively at Mix, Greenbelt 3, Ayala Center, Makati City.

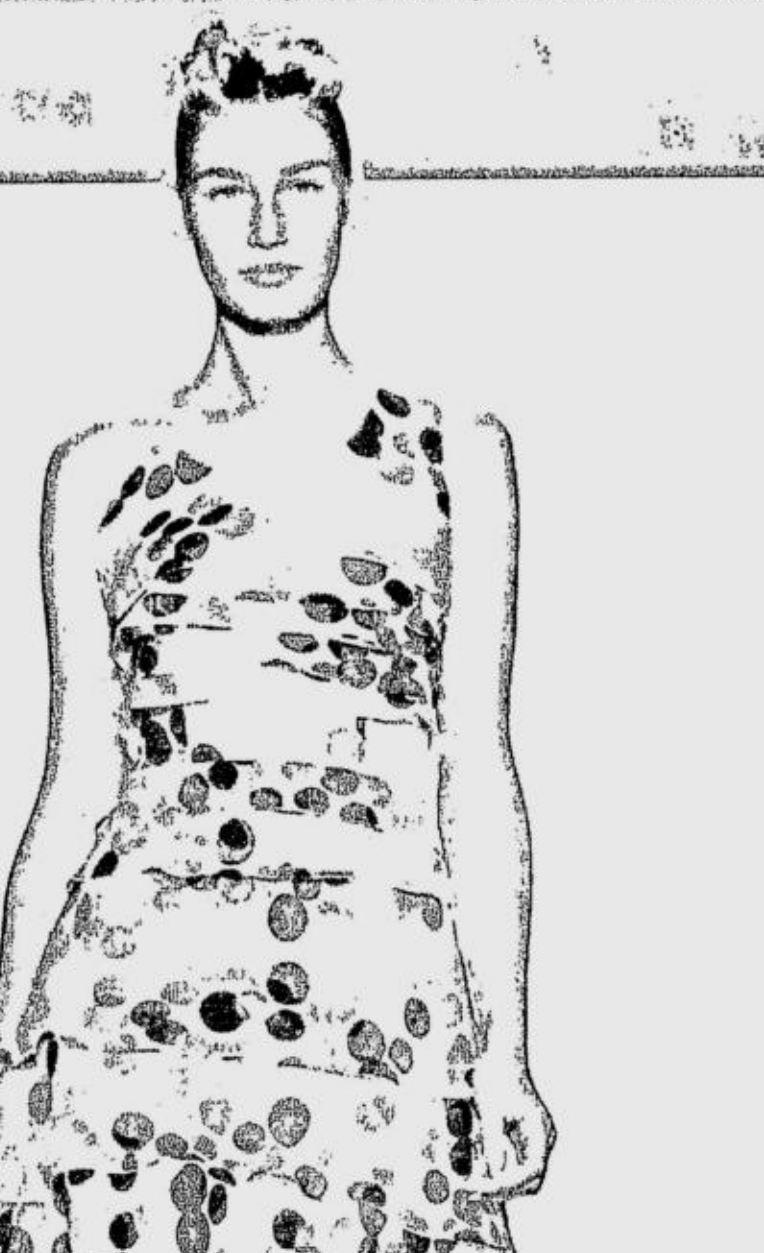
Oh, Carolina!

THE SPRING-SUMMER 2006 COLLECTION OF Spanish designer Carolina Herrera evokes the freedom and artistic expression of Vienna just before the 1920s. Visual excitement is created in the use of colors and prints; coffee bean, flamingo pink, thyme and sky blue. Pure cottons, printed chiffon and raffia make this collection both contemporary and fresh. Expressive artistry is exhibited in prints and embroideries. Waists are slightly raised for day and for night, creating striking shapes and silhouettes.

GEMMA. White cotton shirt and black-and-white floral cotton pants

MORGANE. White canvas jacket with coffee-bean topstitch and cotton eyelet shorts

MARIJA. Coffee-bean/ivory cotton eyelet dress with apple-green straps and motives



EUGENIA. Multilayered organza polka-dot gown and cropped top

LACK shirred tassel dress

THREE-FOURTHS-SLEEVED tunic, velvet trouser with cuff

LAYERED black turtleneck shirt, spruce wrap top, gray gauze swing skirt

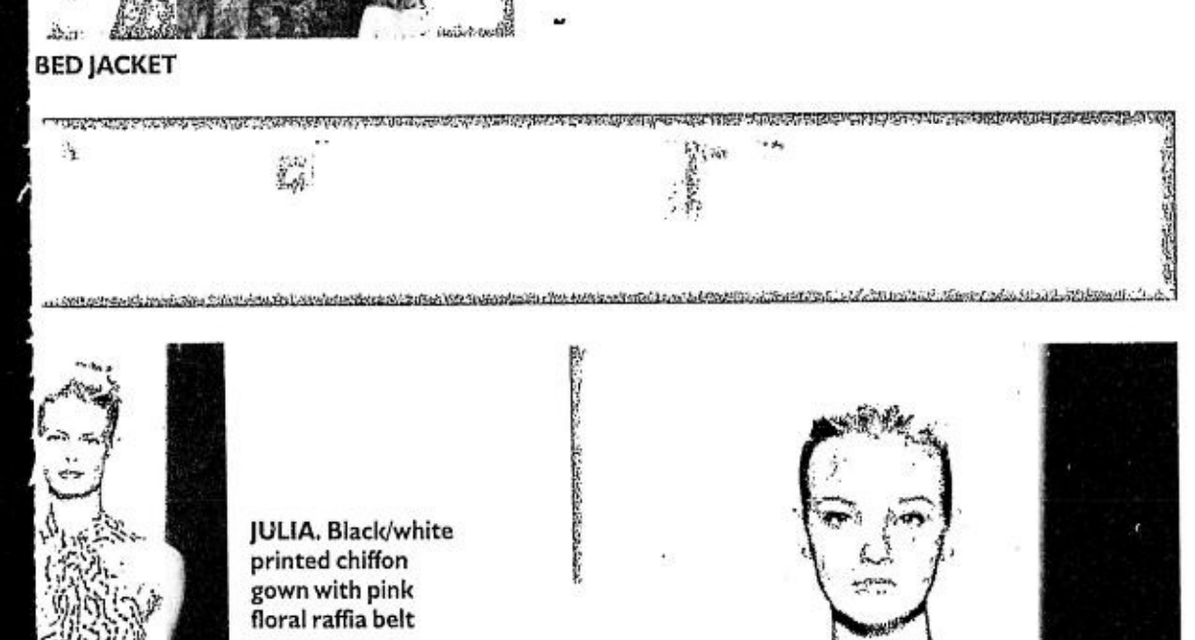
BLACK fringe wrap dress, plum V-neck pullover

DEEP V cami, pleated gore skirt, paillette studded shrug

BED JACKET

Cynthia Vincent's Fall 2005 collection includes lots of sensual chiffon camisoles and blouson wraps and lightly shirred dresses

PRAIRIE skirt, back nailhead cami



JULIA. Black/white printed chiffon gown with pink floral raffia belt

CAROLINE T. Sky-blue cotton gown with appliqué of hand-painted floral motive

SOLANGE. Strapless pink-coffee-bean/ivory floral degrade dress with ruffle detail

A bite of the Big Apple

GOTHAM. AT THE GROUND FLOOR OF Harrison Plaza is among the most stylish and hippest stores in Manila today.

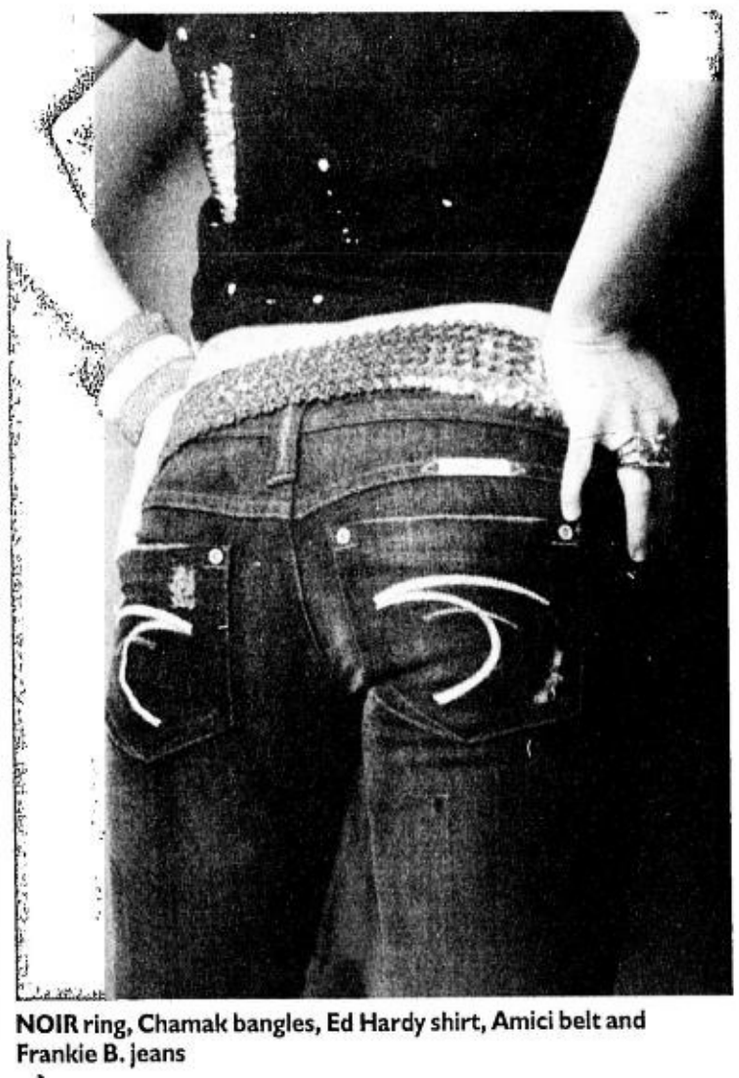
The chic boutique is very extravagant and French in ambience. But it is also a slice of New York to Manila's fashionistas.

The shop is a one-stop destination for people looking for trendy New York lines. All items that gotham. offers are from the Big Apple.

Shoppers don't have to go online to find out or buy what New Yorkers are wearing. They are also assured of getting only the latest in fashion as gotham. only carries the trendiest products available.

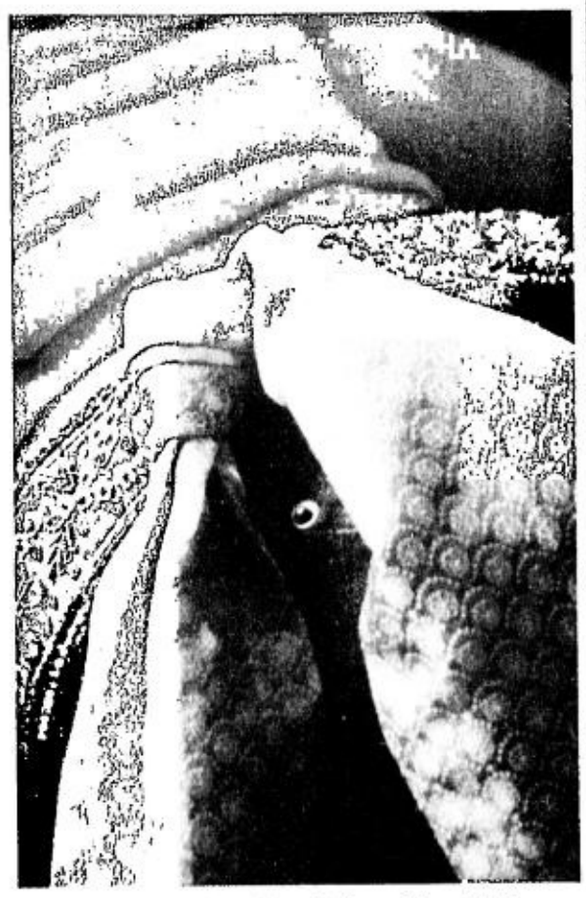
The store offers a variety of items—contemporary labels such as jeans by Paige Premium Denim and Frankie B. jeans; track suits and knitwear by So Low; pretty tees and tanks by Michael Stars; a new grungy collection of embroidered caps and tees by Ed Hardy; flip flops by Mella footwear; embellished Amici and Tali belts; funky handbags by Kooba; thongs by Hanky Panky; lingerie by Cosabella; innovative bags by Cuffz by Linz; '70s jumpers, pants, jackets by Catch a Fire; vintage bags and accessories by Felix Rey; Luli Fama Swimwear, nOir jewelry and many more.

They are the preferred brands of many top international celebrities like Britney Spears, Jennifer Lopez, Mariah Carey, Cameron Diaz, Kate Moss, Sarah Jessica Parker, Drea de Matteo, Gwen Stefani, Paris Hilton, Jennifer Aniston, Jessica Alba, Eva Longoria and current "it" girl, Sienna Miller, who inspired a Kooba bag design.



NOIR ring, Chamak bangles, Ed Hardy shirt, Amici belt and Frankie B. jeans

NOIR ring and Frankie B. pants



MICHAEL Stars tube, Ibisco belt and Frankie B. pants

MAKATI Garden Club (MGC) welcomes the Christmas season with "Holiday Plants, Gifts and Food Sale" 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Dec. 2-3, at MGC Headquarters, Recoletos St. cor Edsa and Ayala Ave., Makati. The two-day sale will feature items such as indoor and outdoor plants, plants as gifts, beautiful art pieces, fine linen, food, scented candles, Christmas decor, gift items and miniatures, poinsettias. A special booth will offer white elephant items donated by the MGC ladies. Proceeds of the sale will go to the regeneration of denuded mangrove forests. Surprise gifts will also be raffled off every hour. Call 8172738 or 8182670.

Fund-raising bazaar, expo to be held Nov. 25-27 at WTC

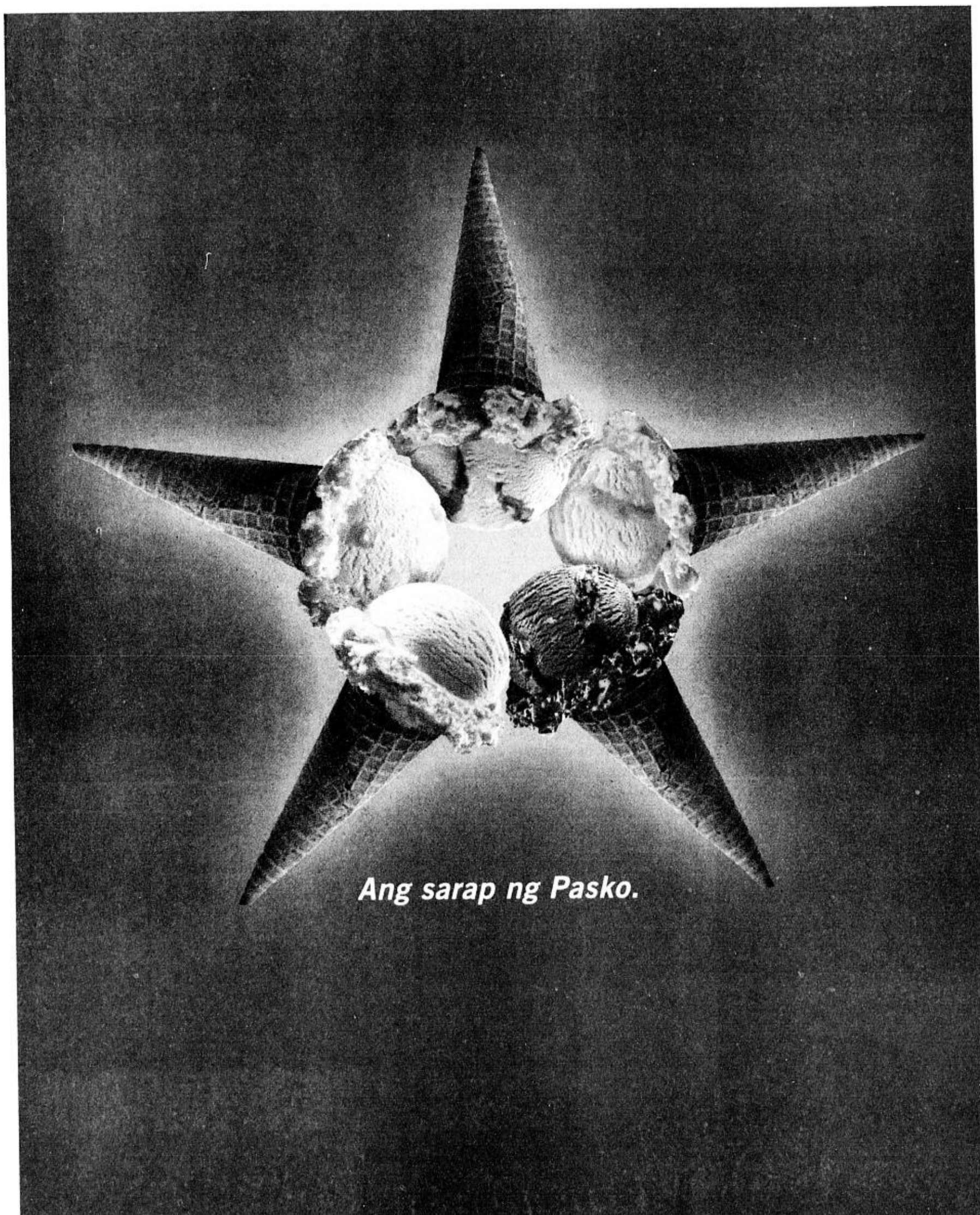
THE 2005 NOEL DISCOVERY BAZAAR AND Christmas Shop Expo will be held 10 a.m.-8 p.m., until Nov. 27, at World Trade Center, Roxas Blvd., Pasay. Unique and hard-to-find gifts and personal accessories for the young and old will be available. Other event highlights are fashion shows and kiddie activities (face painting, arts and crafts, storytelling, cooking/baking demos). Proceeds will benefit Bantayog ng mga Bayani, GMA Kapuso and Associate Missionaries of Assumption Foundations.

ANNIVERSARY. Club Bulakeño will mark its 17th anniversary with a fundraising ball dubbed Kasayahan 2005, Nov. 26, at the Grand Ballroom of Westin Philippine Plaza. Club Bulakeño has been active in various outreach programs. It conducts medical and dental missions, helps rebuild schools, donates hospital equipment and awards scholarships to deserving youth of Bulacan.

HOMECOMING. Fort Bonifacio High School will hold a grand alumni homecoming, "Remembering Yesterday, Building Tomorrows," on Nov. 26, at Fort Bonifacio High School compound, JP Rizal Extension, West Rembo, Makati. Registration is at 6 p.m. The event is hosted by the Silver Jubillarian (Class '80). Call 7505034 or 7509248.

FREEBIES. Crabtree & Evelyn Robinsons Place Manila celebrates its birthday this month. With every purchase of P4,800 until Dec. 31, get a free Aloe Vera Traveler Set worth P750. The shop is at 2/L Padre Faura Wing, Robinsons Place Manila; R2/L Power Plant Mall; 2/L Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Mandaluyong City; Greenbelt 1, Makati City; UG/L SM Megamall A.

WORKSHOPS. College students, out-of-school youth and young kids who want to improve their photography skills are invited to attend Photoworld Manila 2006, Feb. 9-14, 2006. Workshops will be held at the Asian Institute of Management in Makati. Call 8137420 or 8435341.



TRIUMPH'S One-Piece Maximizer Bra

One-piece fit and lift

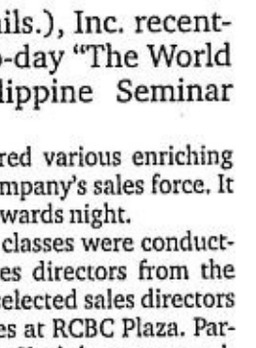
TRIUMPH INTERNATIONAL'S ONE-PIECE Maximizer Bra is a seductive piece of intimate wear. It takes the soft hugging comfort of the ultra-smooth one-piece bra and adds a sexy pushup lift that guarantees a stunning cleavage. The complete lack of seams makes the bra almost invisible—even beneath clinging tops and sheer evening wear.

Sexy yet soft, delicate and feminine, the bra both seduces and charms. Triumph's technological innovation guarantees the bra will fit, uplift, hug and enhance, with nary a stitch or seam anywhere.

Women all over Asia have praised the features of Triumph's One-Piece Bra. They rave about the seamless molded cups which are completely smooth outside and in, eliminating pressure points on the body. They praise its modern printed or laser-cut motif, which runs along the edges of the cup, giving it an elegant touch.

The breathable high-tech microfibre of the Maximizer One-Piece Bra is also durable, easy to clean and dries quickly.

Check out Triumph's new One-Piece Maximizer Bra at SM North Edsa, SM Megamall, SM Makati, SM Cebu and SM Davao; Robinsons Galleria and Robinsons Ermita; Rustan's Makati and Rustan's Alabang.



LACK of seams makes the bra almost invisible.

Outstanding women honored

MARY KAY (Phils.), Inc. recently held the two-day "The World is Yours" Philippine Seminar 2005.

The event featured various enriching activities for the company's sales force. It was capped by an awards night.

On the first day, classes were conducted by national sales directors from the United States and selected sales directors from the Philippines at RCBC Plaza. Participants were Mary Kay's beauty consultants and sales directors along with their spouses.

The second day, held at Westin Philippine Plaza, was highlighted by an awards night that honored women who exhibited excellence and dedication in their Mary Kay career.

The women surpassed their own best records in personal sales, unit sales and recruitment. Hailed as queens, they got crowns, diamond-studded pins and rings.

This unique tradition stemmed from the founder's belief in the importance of praising people and recognizing work well done.

Mary Kay (Phil.), Inc. is an affiliate of Mary Kay, Inc. in Dallas, Texas, a company created because of the founder's desire to enrich women's lives. Call 8934855 or visit www.marykay. com.ph

BY George! /I2

LIFESTYLE

For feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback:
Inquirer life name/age/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

FIX IT. Hairgel and deobody spray, P119

BRATSPLASH and Squirt lotion, P102

DEOBODY spray and face towel, P179

BENCH Eight body spray and face towel, P139

VINTAGE FOR HER. Ladies' boxer shorts, P179.75

ALCOGEL classic and Puremist, P109

LI'L SWEET COW. Baby Bench cologne and lilac cow keychain, P129

FUR LUV. Love at First Sight cologne, P129

It's a holiday Wrap!

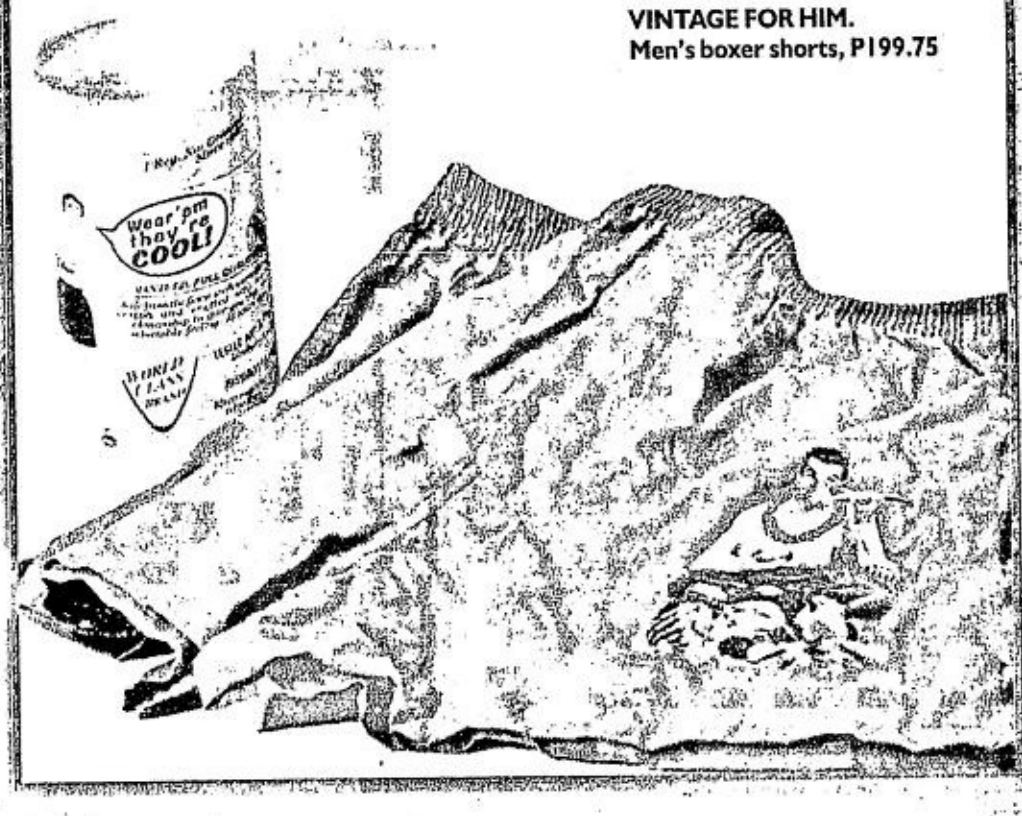
Text by Frank Kalagbak
Photos by Betsy Johnson

TIRED OF THE SAME OLD generic Christmas wrappers or paper bags? Admit it, gifts in pretty packages make your heart skip a beat and your eyes sparkle in delight. It wouldn't hurt either to be the Ms. or Mr. Santa who makes every one's yuletide fabulous with presents in adorable, candy-colored and stylized packages.

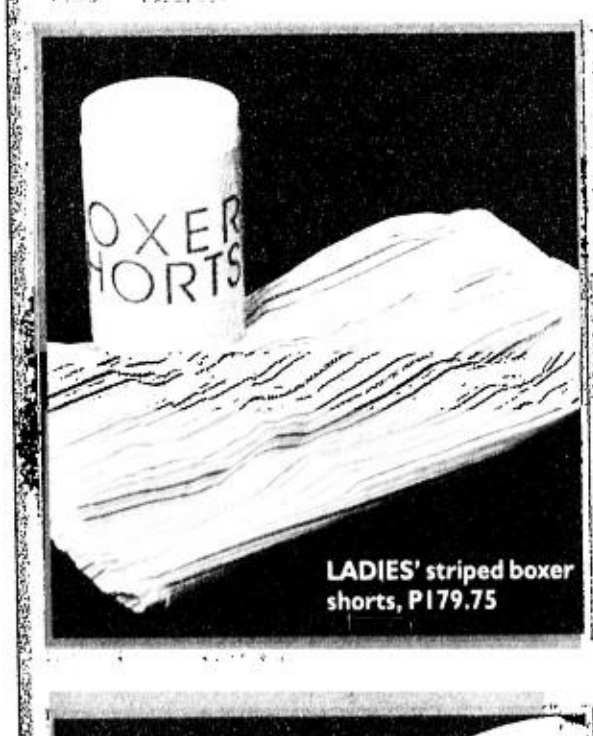
But if you don't have the time to find the right present and create matching Christmas boxes—which is likely the case with your packed schedule—leave it to Bench to provide an array of holiday gift selections that come with the perfect wrapping.

Bench recently released its Holiday 2005 gift guide, a variety of Bench products matched with utilitarian boxes and cylinders bearing lively patterns and charming vintage designs. Surely, there's a Bench gift pack to suit every person on your Christmas gift-giving list.

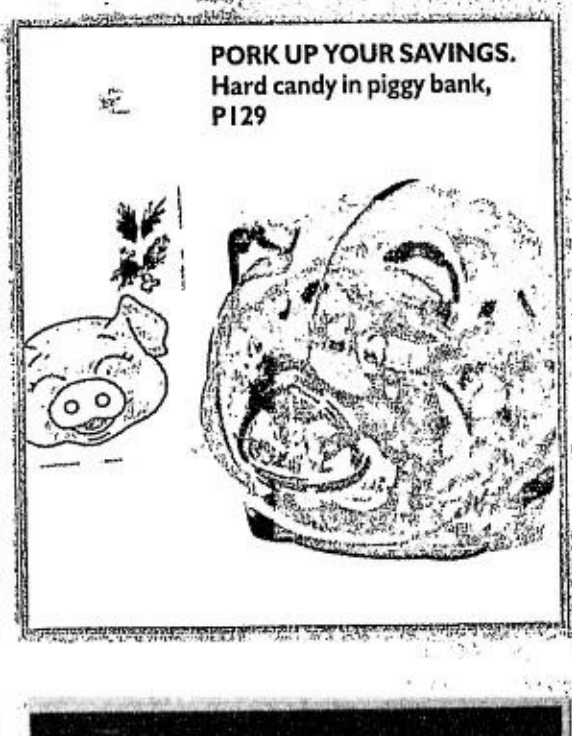
SWEET COW. Pure Play deobody spray with stuffed toy, P199



VINTAGE FOR HIM. Men's boxer shorts, P199.75



LADIES' striped boxer shorts, P179.75



PORK UP YOUR SAVINGS. Hard candy in piggy bank, P129

POCKET PAISLEY. Cotton hankies, P129

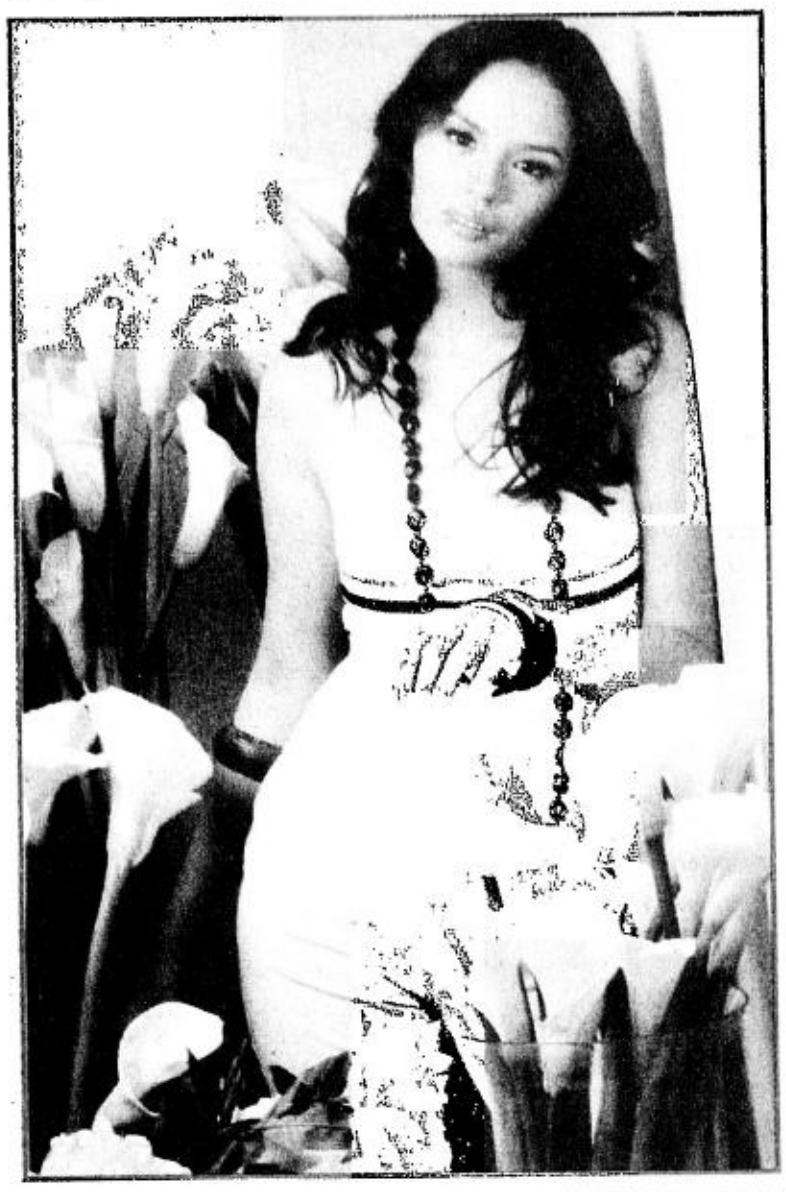
BABY, DON'T BE BLUE. Baby Bench cologne, baby powder and bath soap, P169

BEAR-Y FRESH. Baby Bench cologne and teddy bear, P469

BEAUTY BOX. Baby Bench cologne with mirror-and-comb set, P69

MEN'S plaid boxer shorts, P199.75

SMELLS SUPER. Neo Classic with Superbench toy, P279



Georgina Wilson is the fresh face of Kashieca's ad campaign

SPAGHETTI-STRAP top with crochet details, cardigan and skirt

SPAGHETTI-STRAP top embellished with sequins and velvet tape details, white pants

Gorgeous George

By Allison W. Lopez

KASHIECA PICKED A "George" to represent the ultra-feminine clothing brand, and it couldn't have chosen better.

That's because "George" here is none other than 19-year-old Filipino-British Georgina Wilson, that girl on TV with the lovely skin, hair, and now—outfits.

"I like my name. It's so funny 'cause it's very masculine, and it's just not me at all. I'm like the farthest thing from any sort of masculine," the soft-spoken model says.

She's very feminine indeed—just the way Kashieca likes it. After being bought by Bench, Kashieca launches its major campaign this year with Georgina on the frontline. Her face now graces billboards in Edsa, capturing the radiance and innocence of youth.

Georgina got her good looks and towering height from her mom Aurora, sister of former beauty queen Gloria Diaz, and dad Robert, an English financial analyst. Clad in a striped top, long shorts and high-heeled shoes when we meet her, the 5'10" Georgina says she was never the T-shirt-jeans-rubber-shoes kind of girl. She goes for skirts, heels and pretty tops, and loves pastel colors and ribbon details—actually, just about everything Kashieca has.

"In my group of friends, I've always been the girly girl. I have so much fun dressing up. So every day, everyone teases me that I'm always overdressed. I get so excited to wake up each day and choose something to wear. That sounds so ditzy," she says, laughing.

LONG-SLEEVED knitted top over printed long-sleeved blouse and flared slacks

BLACK sleeveless knit top and capri pants

But no, she ain't a ditz at all. A math whiz, Georgina belongs to the AB Economics Honors class in Ateneo de Manila University. Along with her busy modeling schedule, she admits she hardly has time to spare for other things since she takes her studies seriously.

Georgina started modeling only last year. But immediately after her first ad for a skincare brand in 2004, offers started pouring in, and Kashieca was one of those that knocked on her door.

She admits she's very choosy with her endorsements. "Super. I have to really feel the product. My parents let me decide. I've been offered a lot of things and if I really don't genuinely feel I can represent the product best... For me, it's a nice way to make money, but I don't want my face plastered everywhere also. I just want it with certain brands that I respect, and I feel I can endorse them without lying," she says.

Endorsing a clothing line, says Georgina, was really the next step in her career, but some offers just didn't fit. Kashieca was a different story, though. When it came, there were hardly any second thoughts for her.

"I love Bench and I've so much respect about what they've done... How they evolved Philippine fashion. Being in the Bench family is flattering. They really take care of you, they have the best editorials and everything. So it was a logical move to make," she says.

For the shoot, Georgina worked with creative director Vince Uy, stylist Liz Uy, photographer Ronnie Salvacion and makeup artist Krist Bansuelo—a dream team, she says. "The shoot didn't feel like work. I'm so happy I'm a solo endorser. It's one of my most exciting campaigns."

In the photo used for the ads, she wears a white top with ribbon detail on the collar. She says it's one of her favorite Kashieca items. (It also comes in black, yellow and pink, and she has all these colors.) Other must-have items for her are shirts with cardigan material and floral knee-length skirts. And all other skirts, basically.

"I really just infuse it into my own wardrobe. They're not hard pieces to wear, so there's no pressure. It's something I would wear anyway."

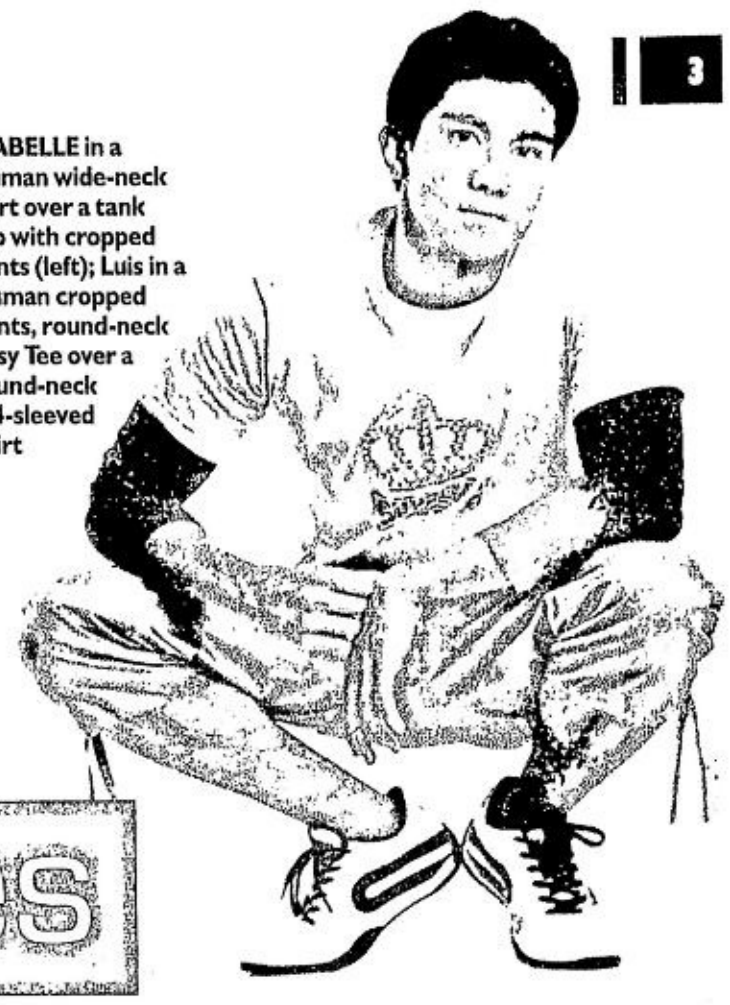
Though everything seems to happen so fast for this pretty young lass, Georgina still has a good head on her shoulders. She feels lucky for the many offers but she knows modeling isn't for keeps. (She doesn't do ramp because she's actually a shy person.) She saves her earnings for further education and plans on a corporate career in the future.

But for the meantime, Georgina just enjoys what comes her way. And with Kashieca, she says, "I couldn't have chosen a better brand for myself. That's why I'm really happy that I waited because I feel that this brand fits me the most out of everything."

OLD-ROSE spaghetti-strap top with embroidery and lace trimmings

ALL CLOTHES BY KASHIECA
PHOTOS BY
RONNIE SALVACION

ON GEOFF: Human round-neck long-sleeved top over collared tee, loose-fit denims and Human Reflex rubber shoes



ISABELLE in a Human wide-neck shirt over a tank top with cropped pants (left); Luis in a Human cropped pants, round-neck Easy Tee over a round-neck 3/4-sleeved shirt

Human grooves

By Pam Pastor

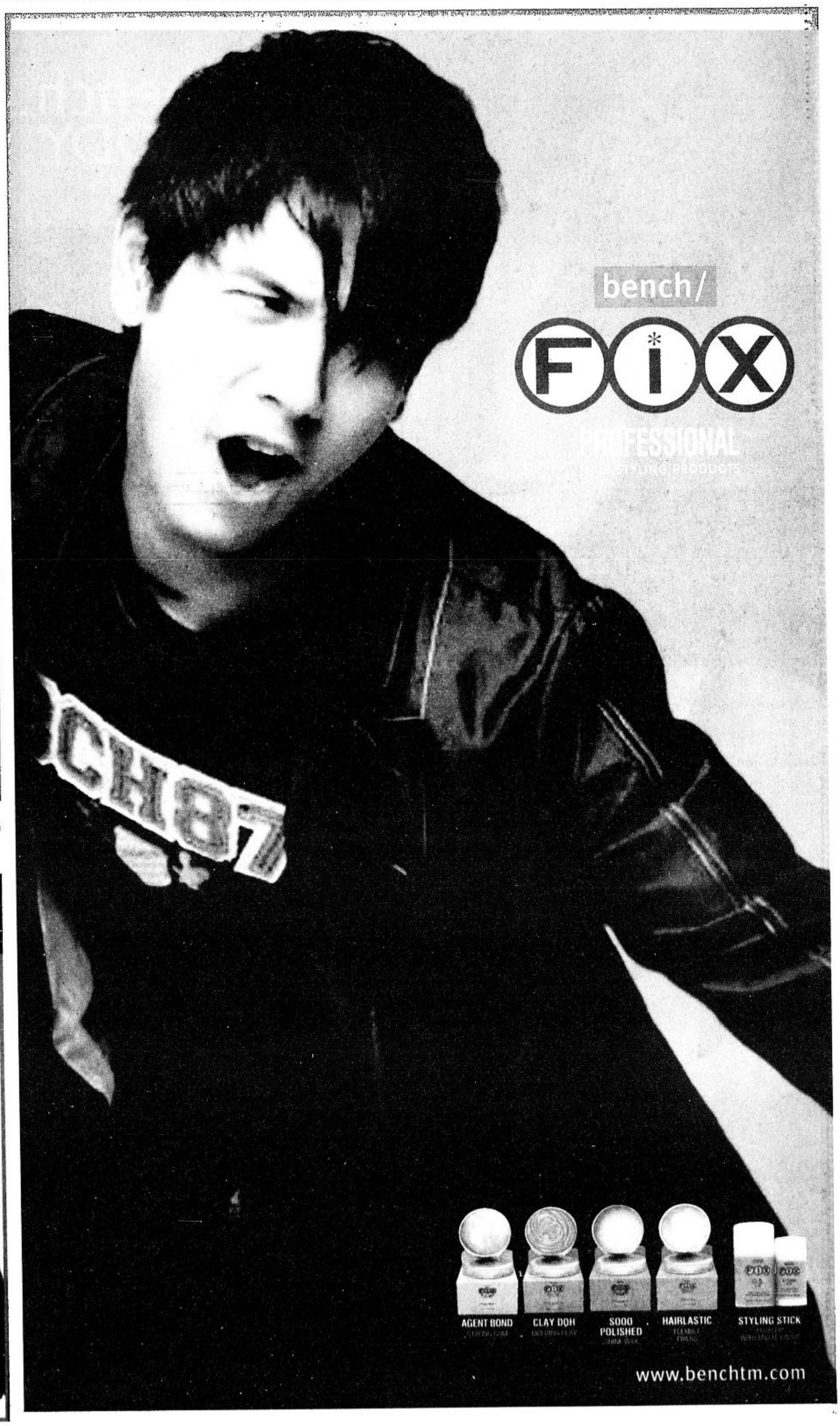
MUSIC AND FASHION, LIKE OREOS and milk, have become inseparable. The love affair between these two forces is becoming more and more evident not just in pop culture but in everyday living. Musicians are becoming more and more recognized as fashion icons. In fact, a lot of fans watch music videos not just for the music but also for the outfits.

Local clothing brand Human realizes how much influence music has on fashion and has taken advantage of this by choosing three endorsers who embody that kinetic fusion. KC Concepcion, Luis Manzano and Geoff Eigenmann are all VJs for popular music channels. And although Human's newest endorser, Isabelle Diaz Daza, is not a VJ (she may be one soon, you never know), she certainly has rock-star good looks.

HUMAN/ I4

ISABELLE in Human sleeveless striped tee, ultra-low bootleg stretch denims, gold woven belt and gold studded skinny belt worn as bracelet

LUIS in a hooded sleeveless top with side pockets, relaxed-fit denims and Human Reflex rubber shoes



Human grooves

GEOFF in Human Easy Tee and loose-fit denim

From page 13

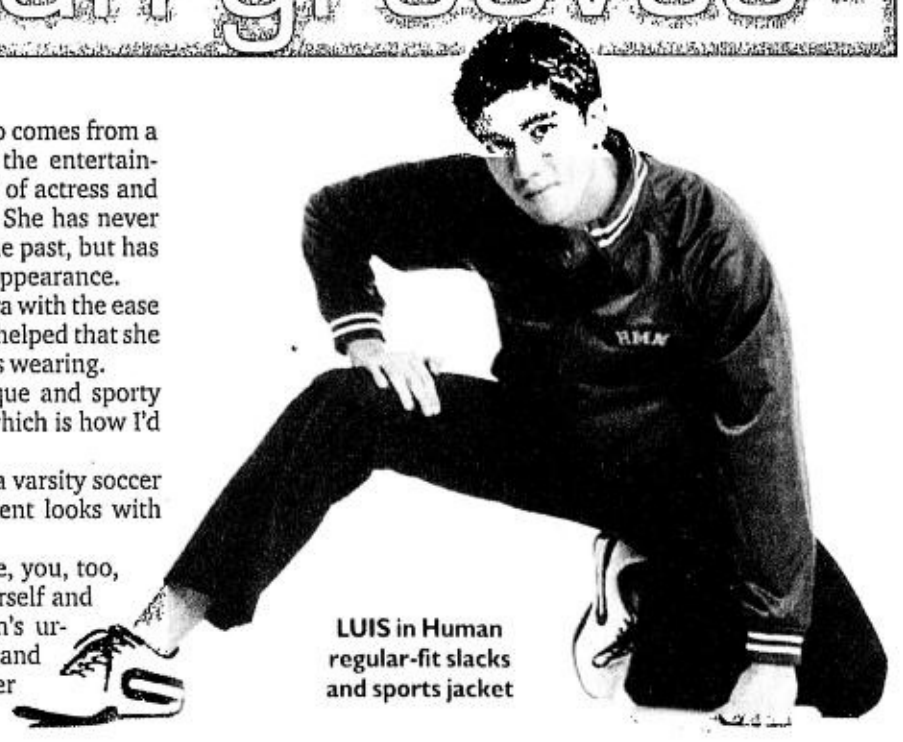
Isabelle, like the other three, also comes from a family of personalities known in the entertainment industry. She is the daughter of actress and former Miss Universe Gloria Diaz. She has never expressed the desire to model in the past, but has now chosen Human for her debut appearance.

At the shoot, she faced the camera with the ease of a professional model. Perhaps it helped that she was comfortable with what she was wearing.

"Human's clothes are very unique and sporty but they also have a trendy flair, which is how I'd like to think of myself," she says.

Isabelle is indeed sporty. She is a varsity soccer player, but she can pull off different looks with panache.

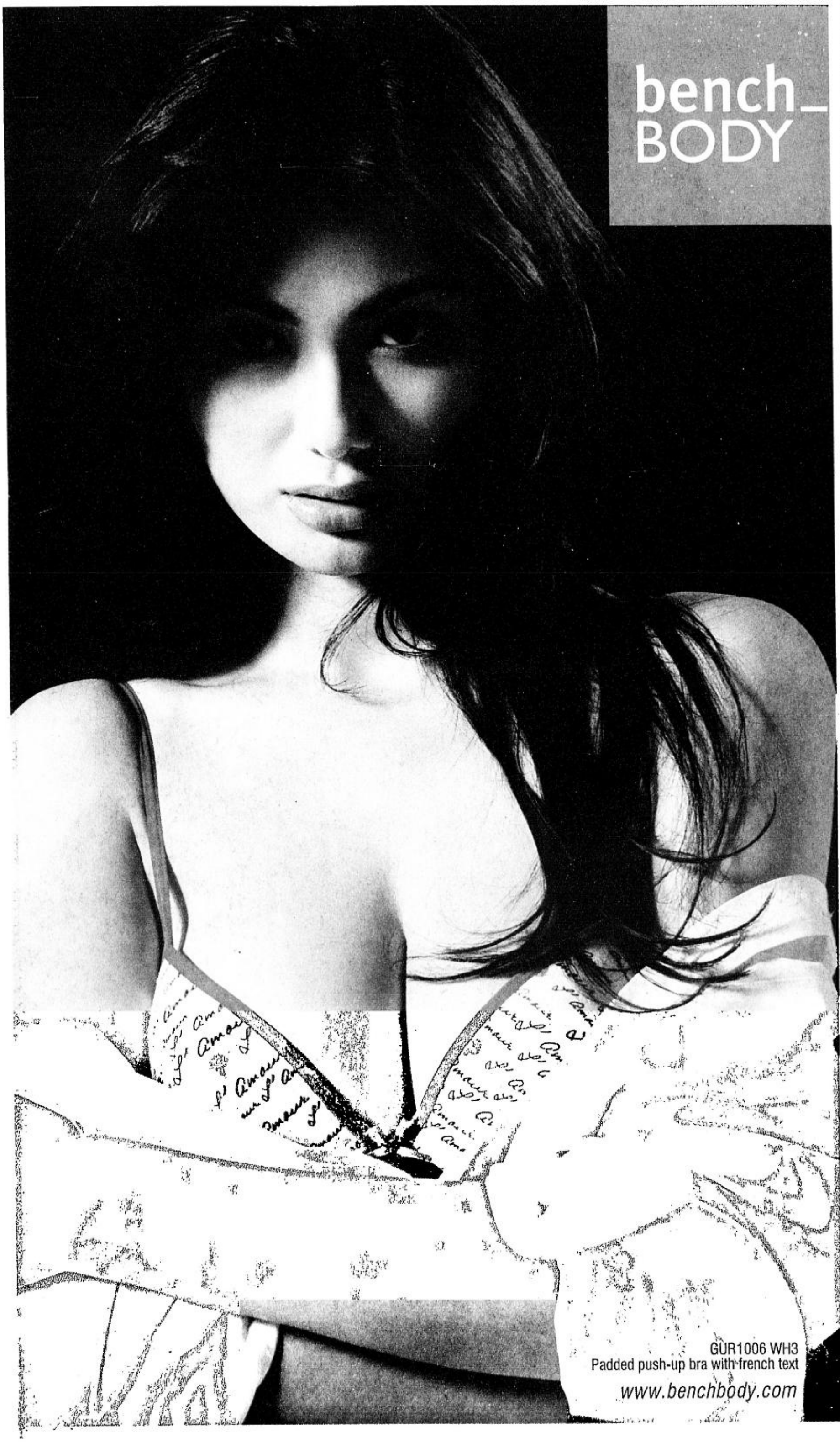
Like KC, Luis, Geoff and Isabelle, you, too, can wear clothes that express yourself and your taste in music. With Human's urban-inspired collection of casual and classic pieces, you're bound to never run out of choices.



LUIS in Human regular-fit slacks and sports jacket

SHE'S got soul. Isabelle in Human round-neck tee with foil print and ultra-low denims

bench_BODY



GUR1006 WH3
Padded push-up bra with french text
www.benchbody.com

GEOFF in Human button-down polo over round-neck Human Easy Tee, regular-fit denims and Human baseball cap

ISABELLE in Human sleeveless top, sports skirt, sun visor, lace scarf and metallic wristlet

LUIS in Human Easy Tee with foil print, Human denims and Human Reflex rubber shoes

SUPERBENCH SM San Lazaro houses all Bench lines, including Bench_body and a Fix Salon. RODEL ROTONI

THE MAD TEA PARTY. Richard Gomez, Lucy Torres-Gomez and their daughter Julianna in Bench

Holiday fantasy

Bench takes your fashion fantasy down the rabbit hole, through the looking glass and back to wonderland

By Irene C. Perez

"But I don't want to go among mad people," Alice remarked.

"Oh, you can't help that," said the Cat: "we're all mad here. I'm mad. You're mad."

"How do you know I'm mad?" said Alice.

"You must be," said the Cat, "or you wouldn't have come here."

—"Alice in Wonderland," by Lewis Caroll

EVERYONE HAS A MAD FASHION fantasy—be it dressing up like an '80s diva, a beatnik poet or a J-pop princess.

Bench, which knows a thing or two about people's penchant for the whimsical, presents the Superbench Fantasy campaign, inspired by children's tales like "Alice in Wonderland" and "The Secret Garden."

Think sprawling gardens, fragrant flowers and mythical creatures.

Bench "first family" Richard Gomez, Lucy Torres-Gomez and their daughter Julianna don select pieces from Bench, Herbench and Kinder Bench for this Wonderland-inspired collection.

Evoking Wonderland's "mad tea party," the three are dressed up in a mishmash of designer skirts, Overhauled jeans and Bench tops.

Longtime Bench model Richard looks regal in a white long-sleeved shirt, accented with pleats and ruffles on the lapel. A necktie is used as belt on his Overhauled jeans.

Among Richard's favorites are the striped long-sleeved shirts and black zip-front jacket.

Lucy may just be your Queen of Hearts in a pink-and-white full-balloon layered skirt and assorted Bench tops.

There are fun tees with "Love" and "So Posh" metallic prints, pastel collared shirts in various sleeve-lengths.

'Drink me'

Youngest Bench model Julianna is an Alice knock-off in her Kinder Bench cotton top and blue layered balloon skirt. A white cardigan and ruffled jacket add warmth and drama to this ensemble, which is available at Bench and Superbench branches.

Superbench concept stores are at Market! Market!, Taguig, and at the newly opened SM San Lazaro, Manila. These are bigger shops which pretty much hold all Bench brands: Bench, Herbench, Kinder Bench, Bench_body, Bed and Bath, and Bench Bites.

Superbench Market! Market! has a—what else—superhero theme where Bench models are done in full superhero regalia.

Superbench SM San Lazaro, meanwhile, sports the supermarket theme. The store has push-carts and baskets, and items are arranged as if you're browsing through grocery aisles.

Bench brings Wonderland to you with the Fantasy campaign. So go down the rabbit hole of fashion and give in to your fantasies.

UNDERGARMENTS are the bestsellers in Superbench SM San Lazaro. PHOTOS BY RODEL ROTONI

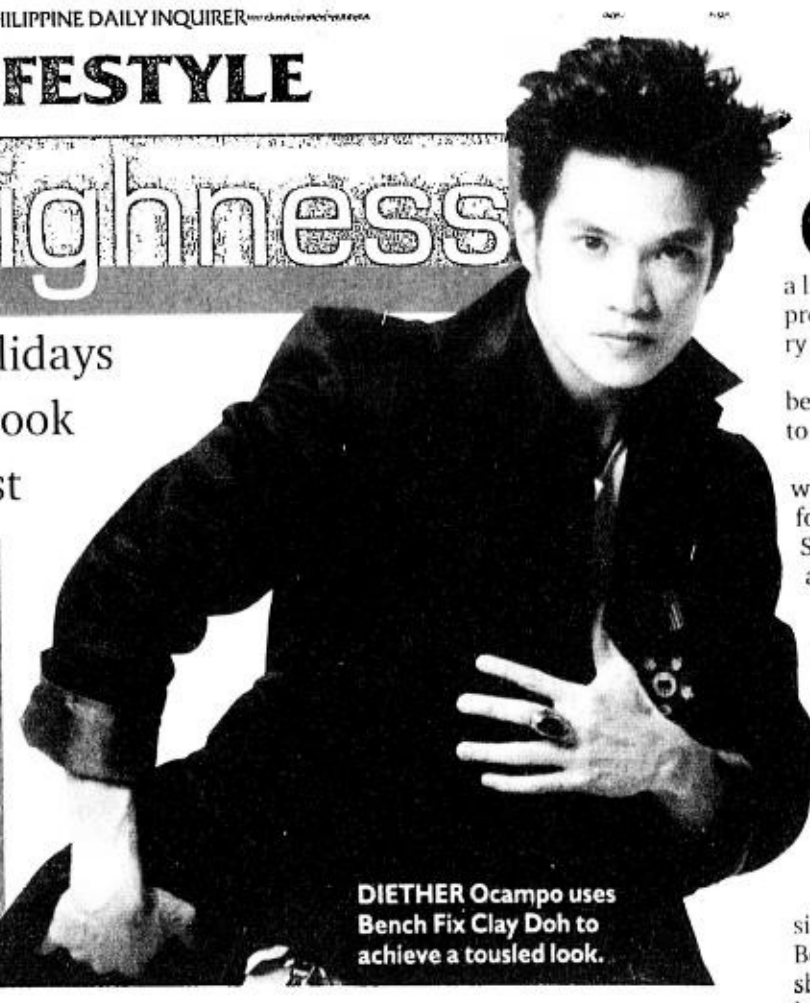
GET that supermarket feel with baskets, kegs and items arranged grocery-style.

Hair highness

The stress of the holidays is no excuse not to look your glamorous best

BENCH Fix Salon's newest image model Margaret Wilson. Bench Fix Styling Hairlastic brings definition to frizzy, soft curly textures.

BENCH Fix Clay Doh molding clay (P200)
RODEL ROTONI



DIETHER Ocampo uses Bench Fix Clay Doh to achieve a tousled look.

By Nastasha Isobel B. Verayo

GETTING CAUGHT UP IN THE holiday hubbub may leave your tresses at the bottom of your priorities. But a little creative styling using Bench Fix styling products can give your mane a touch of luxury and opulence that's worth a second look.

Versatility is the key this season as hair may be styled every which way, transforming blah to brilliant, drab to daring and wild to wow.

Add definition and elasticity to soft spirals with Bench Fix Hairlastic, which creates free-forming shape and style to the hair. Bench Fix Shine On helps rid your perm of pesky frizz and give it a much-needed dose of gloss.

To achieve a sleek, graphic look, stomp out curls by applying Bench Fix Styling Water Crème generously while flat-ironing hair.

"Haircuts for men have the elements of asymmetry, disconnection and undercuts," says hairstyling guru and Bench Fix creative director Alex Carbonell. Men's cuts this season put a play on texture and shape.

Set a modern spin on a retro look. Flatten sides of hair with Hairlastic, then tousle using Bench Fix Agent Bond styling gum to create shape without compromising softness and luster. Agent Bond creates volume, height and hold. Blow-dry crown area then spread to create a flat top. Use Bench Fix Hair Stick to add shape and height to this geometric style.

Apply Bench Fix Clay Doh to attain a more wearable 'do. Clay Doh's hair-transforming properties ensure definition and lift from the roots, as well as extreme hold throughout the day.

Bench Fix Sooo Polished assures a buffed, no-frizz finish to your shag.

Bench Fix styling products are available at Bench shops at Ayala Alabang Town Center; Ayala Center, Cebu; Glorietta 4, Ayala Center; Bay City Mall, Batangas; Burgundy Transpacific Place, Taft Ave.; City Center Greenhills; Cybermall Eastwood, Libis, Diliman; Commercial Center, Ever Commonwealth; Festival Mall, Filinvest; First Aid, Greenbelt 3; Jaka Plaza, Sucat; La Fuerza Bldg., Chino Roces Ave.; Manila Plaza; NE Pacific Mall, Cabanatuan; Pavillion Mall, Laguna; Robinsons Galleria; Robinsons Place, Manila' Robinsons Metro East, Pasig; Singson Bldg., Dapitan; SM Bicutan; SM Fairview; SM North Edsa; SM San Lazaro. Sta. Lucia Mall; Starmall, Edsa; Starmall Las Piñas; The Loop, ABS-CBN; The Podium, Ortigas; Torres Bldg., Katipunan; and Wilson Street, Greenhills.

JOHN Prats' precisely cut fringe complements both a swept-back style and a sleek polished 'do.

BENCH Fix Agent Bond styling gum (P150)
RODEL ROTONI

BENCH Fix Sooo Polished shine wax (P200)
RODEL ROTONI

BENCH Fix Styling Stick 75 g (P250)
RODEL ROTONI

bench/
Basic & Luxury
www.benchtm.com

We're back! WESTERN

Bigger. Bolder. Much Better.

Passing through the main thoroughfare of Pasay Road (presently A. Arnaiz Avenue) in upscale Makati, a new structure catches everyone's attention. The façade alone captures the interest of onlookers. How much more if fascinated individuals step inside and check out the interiors? The building and imaging are totally new but the occupant is among the country's prime movers in the appliance industry.

The Western Group of Companies unveils its newly renovated outlet in the central business district. It's been a while since it was last open for the patrons. But the long hiatus is worth all the wait for the new building will surely appeal to the modern-day sentiment of functionality in design. It is more spacious and has a lot to offer to consumers with more than ample parking space for customers.

The post-modern architecture of Western's Pasay Road store strikes a clear-cut and deliberate balance between the customers' sensitivity and comfort with very specific appliance-showcasing requirement.

Western has always given its clientele more than just a selling space or the usual "whitewash" look. This branch now has color pallets, lighting and texturing attributed to high-end residential and office interiors. The all too common photographic lifestyle signage in commercial colors has been replaced with display racks and counters that look like furniture at your own home.

The newly improved store also showcases Ambiance One furniture located at the second level. There are more high-end products considering the area being surrounded by exclusive subdivisions and its proximity to offices in upscale Makati.

There is a huge demand for flat-screen television sets which Western anticipated with its wide selection on display. Choose from Plasma, LCD, and Projection TVs offered by world-class brands such as Sony, JVC, Pioneer, Panasonic, Sharp, Philips, TCL, Samsung, Ariston, Toshiba, Magic Sing, iPod, and Sanyo. See the latest designs in refrigerators from GE. For "audiophiles," there are Pioneer car stereos on board. This store has almost everything one wants and needs.

As always, Western gives its customers the same quality service that goes with its tradition. Count on its after-sales service that goes back to its 40 years of existence in the Philippine market.

And with this re-opening also means more freebies and surprises.

No cash now? Western gives ZERO-percent interest on big and small appliances. Its tie-up with credit cards eases the pressure with easy payments. Western is one of the stores that takes part in the Equitable Card's "Buy Now. Pay Next Year," promo. While Din-

WE'RE BACK!/ J3

As always, Western gives its customers the same quality service that goes with its tradition. Count on its after-sales service that goes back to its 40 years of existence in the Philippine market

Per DTI-NCR Permit # 2172 & 4164, Series of 2005

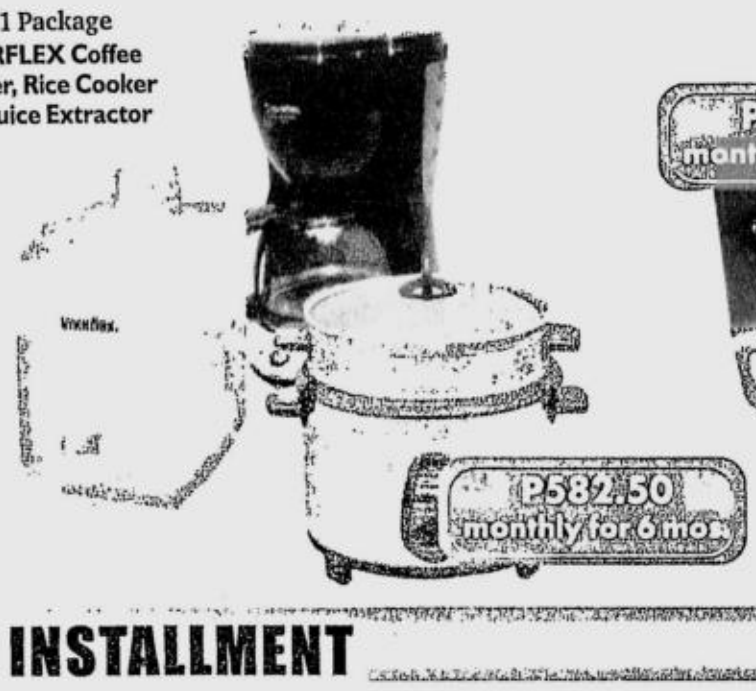
BIG or SMALL appliances

0%

INTEREST ON INSTALLMENT

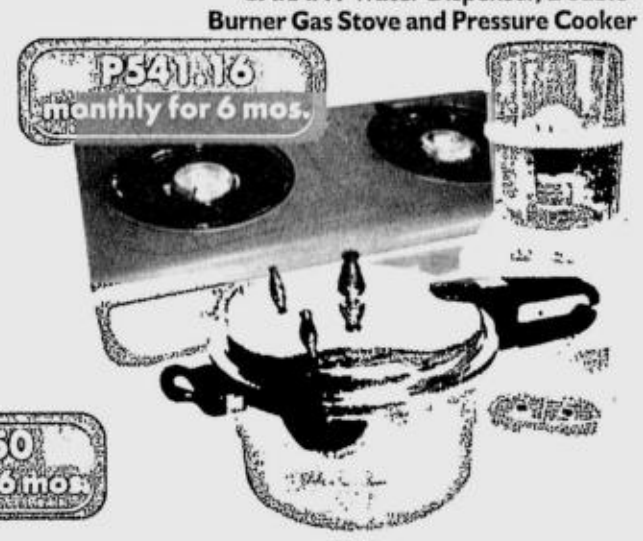
THRU:
CITIBANK • BPI • EQUITABLE • BANKARD • METROBANK • DINERS
• SB CARDS • UNIONBANK • STANDARD CHARTERED • HSBC • AIG

3-in-1 Package
IMARFLEX Coffee Maker, Rice Cooker and Juice Extractor



P582.50 monthly for 6 mos.

3-in-1 Package
GARANT Water Dispenser, Double-Burner Gas Stove and Pressure Cooker



P541.16 monthly for 6 mos.

SHARP Aquos (37") Plasma MTS/SAP Stereo Sound with FREE Wall-bracket (34") Flat CTV and Lounge Chair

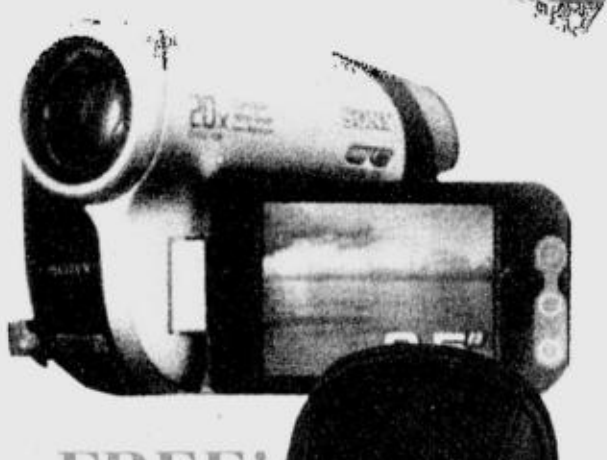
P22,666.25 monthly for 12 mos.

FREE!

TOSHIBA Stasia (42") Plasma TV with FREE DVD Player or Home Theater System, (21") Flat CTV and Lounge Chair

P18,665.83 monthly for 12 mos.

FREE!



FREE!
SONY DVD Handycam with USB with FREE P5000 accessory Gift Check and Bag

P3,749.92 monthly for 12 mos.

P2082.50 monthly for 12 mos.

JVC 7000W DVD Compact Component System with FREE Mic., 10 Karaoke VCDs and Pressure Cooker

FREE!

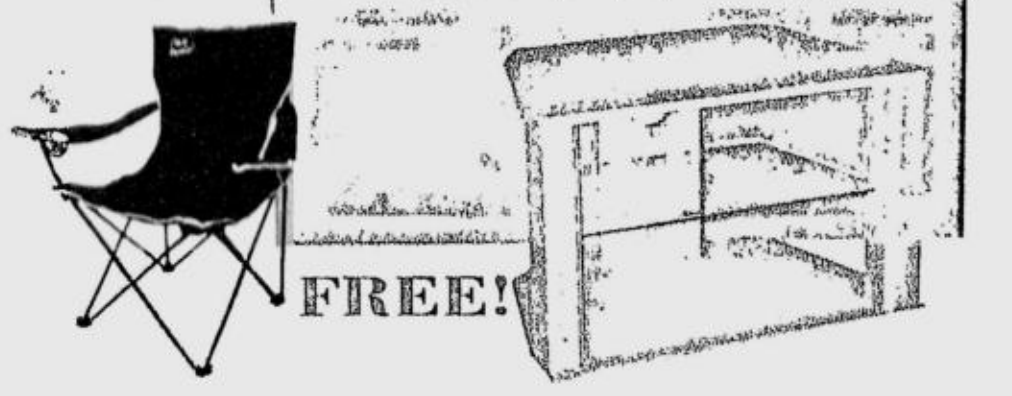
PIONEER 7500W Home Theater System with FREE Basket of Goodies

FREE!

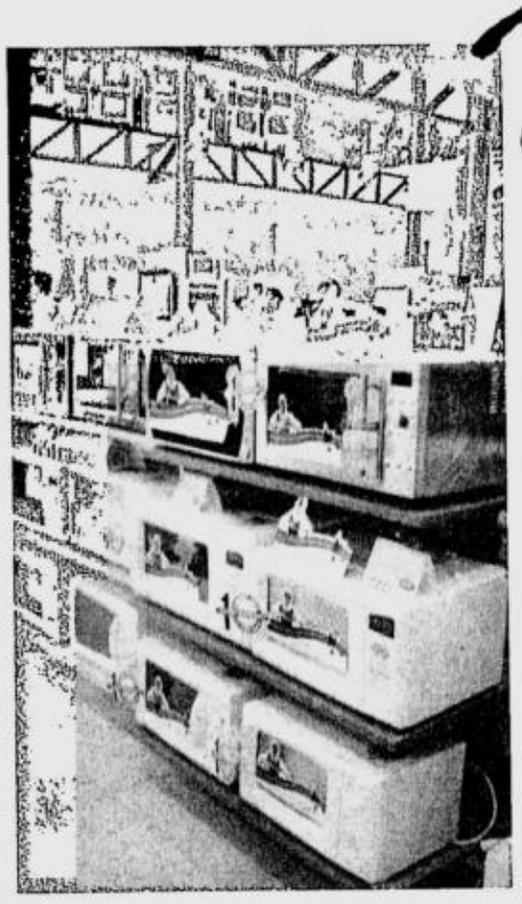
P3831.67 monthly for 9 mos.

P5831.67 monthly for 12 mos.

PHILIPS (43") Projection TV with FREE TV Stand and Lounge Chair



FREE!



We're back!

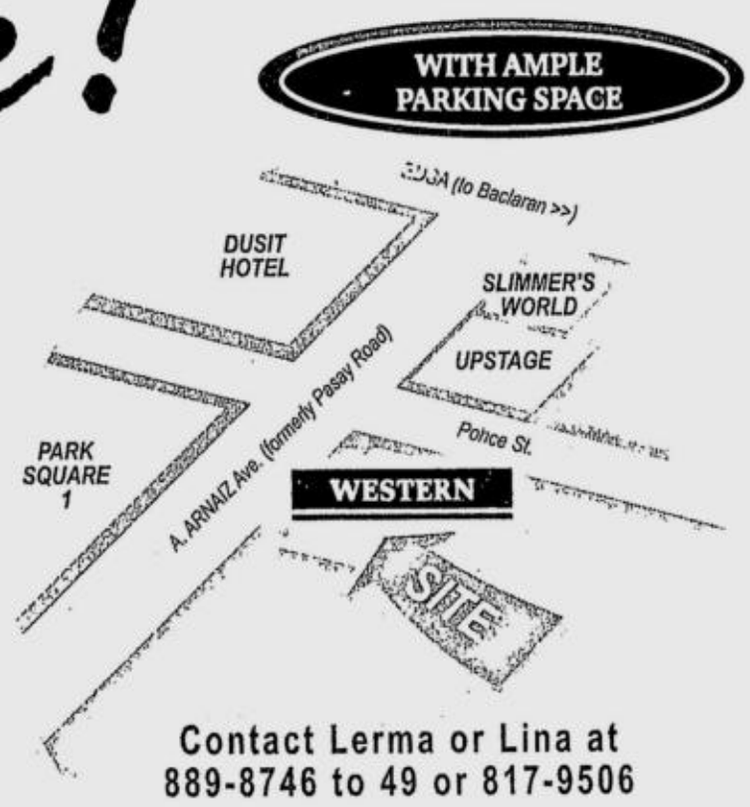
Bigger. Bolder. Much Better.

From page J1

ers Club cardholders can get their rewards points multiply to five times. Bankard also has the "Pick-a-surPRIZE" promotion for minimum purchase of P3,000 and Western's Pick-A-Prize promo for a minimum purchase of P10,000. Customers can win these exciting prizes: rice cooker, whistling kettle, flat iron, gas stove, basket of goodies, bread toaster, golf umbrella, mini desk lamp, multi-function knife, shock T-shirt, and mini cofee-maker.

Western surely has come a long way since its first store at C.M. Recto in Manila. Today, it has 14 branches strategically situated all over the metropolis and still expanding. Touted as among the leaders in the appliance, electronics, home furnishing retail industry in the country, it allows to cater to people from all walks of life.

The Western Group is committed to serve consumers with only globally renowned brands of sterling quality in the most affordable prices and in easier payment schemes. The tradition of giving only the best service continues with the Pasay Road branch.



American Home Appliances Make Life Easier for You

IN TODAY'S FAST-PACED LIVING, YOU can have a hard time keeping up with everything around you, especially if you have your own pad, condo or house. Because you're very busy doing all sorts of things, it would be very hard for you to find the time to take care of your home, to prepare the right meals, to wash your clothes or to even organize stuff in your kitchen. Luckily for you, there are American Home appliances.

American Home appliances are made with elegance and function in mind. They are not only created to fit your home beautifully; they are also designed to make your lifestyle simpler and easier—to make life more enjoyable! American Home refrigerators, microwave ovens, washer-dryers, air conditioners, coffee makers, water dispensers, rice cookers and a whole lot more are easy to operate and use. With them, you can save lots of time so you can be able to do the other things you need to do in today's demanding world.

Each American Home appliance is loaded with innovative features and convenient functions to give you a hassle-free time in doing your household chores.

Cooking the right meals is done quick and easy with American Home microwave ovens. They have the advanced CRS—concave reflex system, which makes use of concave reflectors inside the oven to better reflect the microwaves for even and more efficient cooking. Organizing your kitchen and storing foods are made simpler with American Home refrigerators. They are easy on your electric bill with their energy efficient compressor. These refs are easy on the environment as well with their environment friendly refrigerants. And washing and drying tons of laundry is never a problem with American Home twin tub washing machines. Each come with powerful washer motors, a timer system and a very powerful spinner motor for more efficient washing. Other American Home appliances also deliver when it comes to making life easier for you. They can all be considered your household partners in modern living.

American Home appliances come in elegantly designed exteriors that are easy to clean. Removing the toughest dirt, stains and grime can be done in a jiffy. No need for different kinds of dirt removers or cleaners. Just wiping with a damp cloth will do. With these special exteriors, American Home appliances can match your counters or tabletops perfectly and they can easily add sophistication to any kitchen or dining room.

And you'll be surprised to know that American Home appliances are reasonably priced—giving you added ease when it comes to saving and budgeting for a new appliance! You don't need to pay extra to get the convenience, elegance and the quality you get with American Home appliances.

So breeze through modern living and add function and elegance into your home. Simplify your life with American Home appliances. Get them and live the dream now! American Home appliances are exclusively distributed in the Philippines by AHAM Corporation. They are available at leading appliance stores nationwide.

It's not the thought that counts. It's really the gift.

(Remember, the gifts you didn't like and recycled will eventually end up with you. So give someone any of our fabulously durable line of home appliances. And be loved for life.)

For more info and location of appliance dealer near you, please contact
Ms Marilou Tering or Aldrich dela Cruz at (02) 374-4567 or e-mail aldrich.cruz@ahamcorp.com

AMERICAN HOME
Dream on. We'll get the work done.

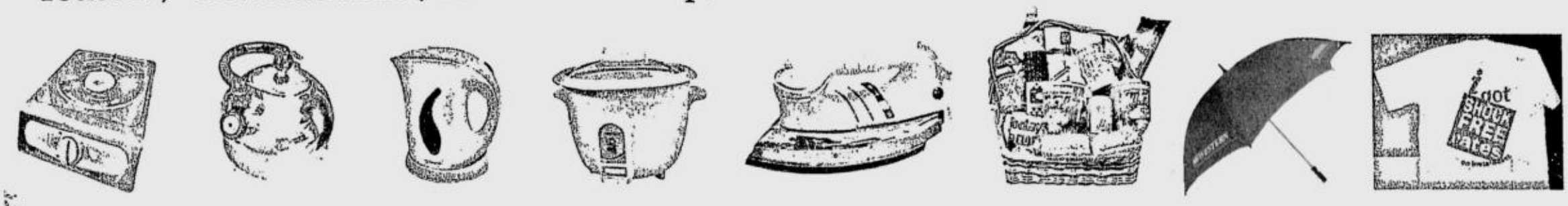
For every purchase of American Home Rice Cooker with steamer at selected dealers.

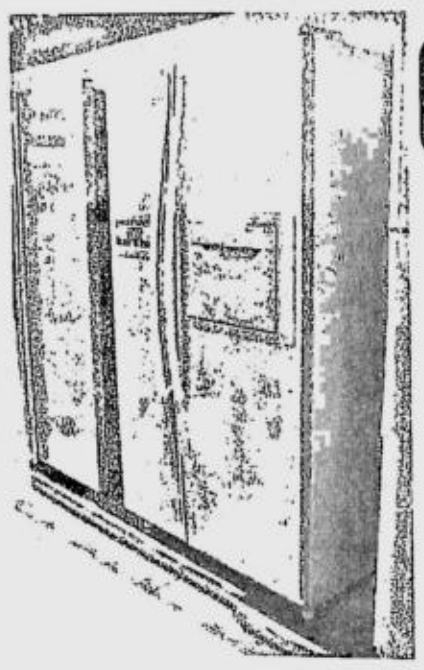
PROMO PERIOD STARTS ON NOVEMBER 25 TO DECEMBER 31, 2005
PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. 6361 SERIES OF 2005

Pillsbury makes Christmas delightfully delicious and surprisingly easy.

Pick-A-Prize Get a chance to win exciting freebies*
with a minimum P10,000 CASH or CREDIT CARD purchase

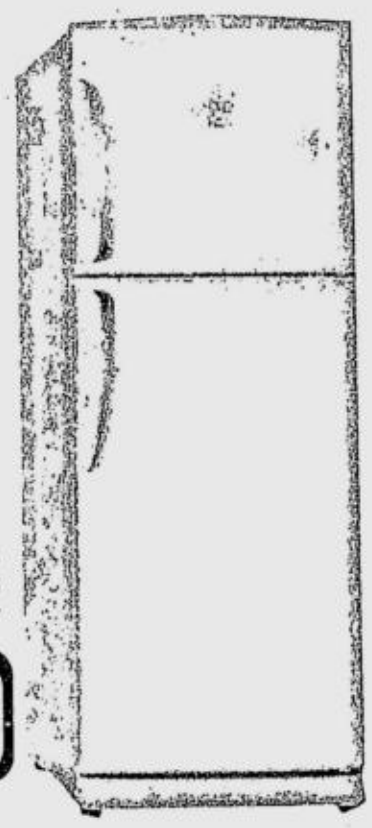
* Rice Cooker / Whistling Kettle / Flat Iron / Gift Cheque / Gas Stove / Basket of Goodies / Bread Toaster / Golf Umbrella / Mini Desk Lamp / Multi-Function knife / T-shirt / Mini Coffee Maker





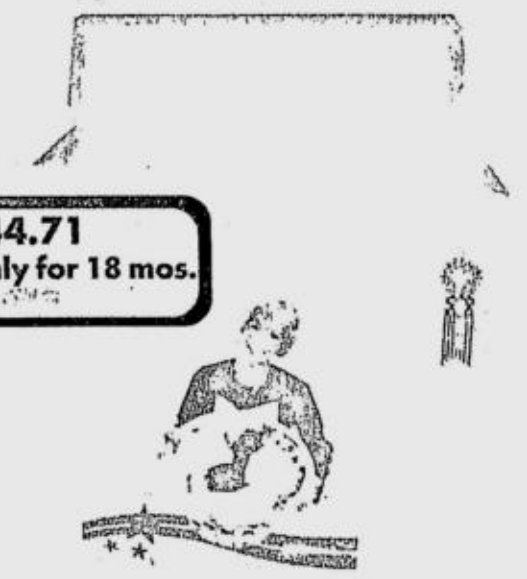
P5483.50
monthly for 18 mos.

GE Side-by-Side (21 cu. ft.) Refrigerator



SANYO Two-Door 332 Liter (11.7 cu. ft.) No Frost Refrigerator

P3832. 50
monthly for 6 mos.
0 % interest



P2344.71
monthly for 18 mos.

FREE!

AMERICAN HOME 10.5 Kg Single Tub Fully-Auto Washing Machine with FREE Laundry Detergent and Laundry Aid

Feel at home with Ambiance One

GIVING YOUR HOME THE MOST COMFY feeling need not be a hard task. What your home looks like defines your character and personality. And you only want the best for the place you can relax in after a hard day's work. You want to really feel at home.

Choosing the furniture to achieve the look you want is made easy with Ambiance One. This high-end furniture store knows your needs and what will look good in your home.

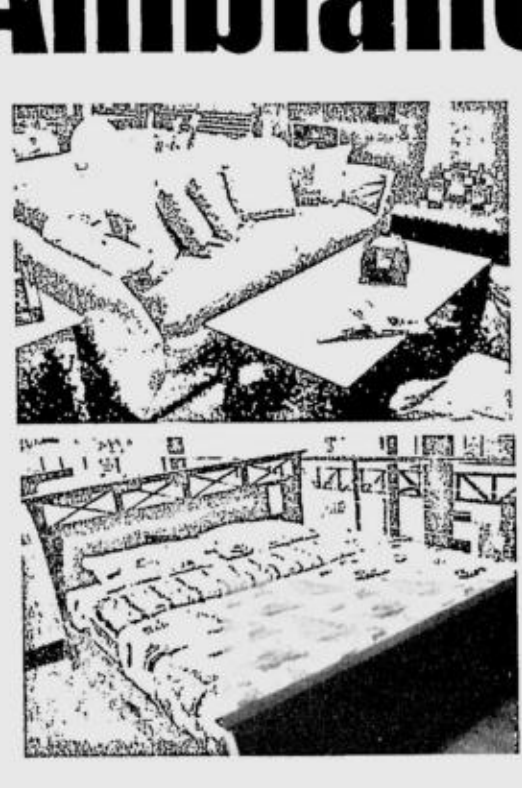
All Ambiance One furniture lines are imported and made of pure wood, with sophisticated designs by specialists from Japan and Singapore who know what the trends are.

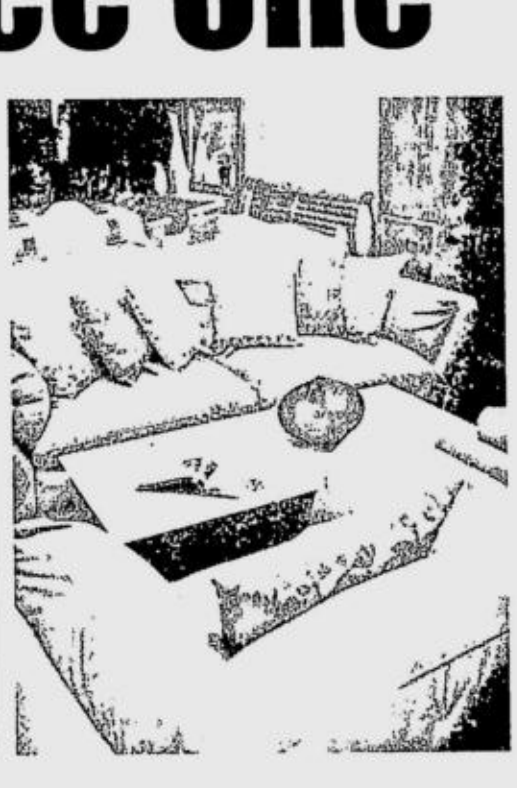
The store gives you more choices with furniture lines available in distinctive finishes like walnut, maple, natural, oak, and cherry. Ambiance One allows you to have a wide selection of quality furniture items, compare designs, choose the best material that suits your lifestyle, and create a theme for your home. At Ambiance One, there are matching pieces from the same theme design you have already chosen.

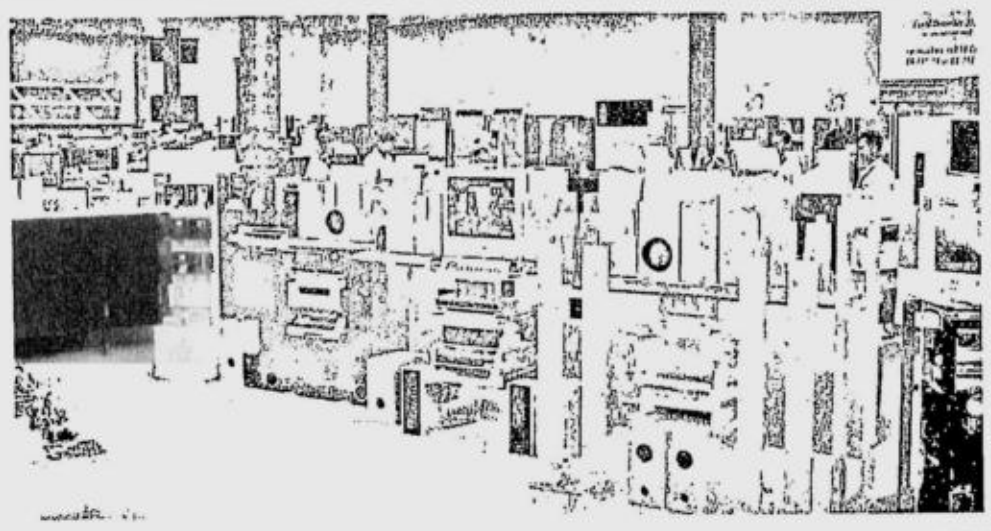
When you buy a furniture item at Ambiance One, you can find matching pieces from the same theme design, an option which may not available in other stores. And to help you out in making that dream home really perfect for your taste, Ambiance One offers free consultations on interior design.

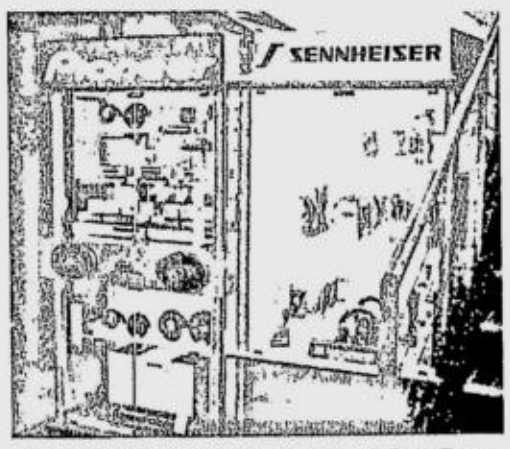
Ambiance One, known to serve the high-end market, offers the most competitive prices for everyone.

Visit the new branch at the mezzanine level of Western Appliance along Pasay Road in front of Park Square 1. You may also visit its showroom located at Level 6 of Shangri-La Plaza Mall (634-2773), Level 4-Home Buddies at Glorietta 4 (815-6663), Level 3 of Festival Supermall in Alabang (771-0355) or its Ambiance Lifestyle Showroom along P. Tuazon Street in Cubao (437-6770), or its showroom at Western Appliance along C.M. Recto in Manila (711-5667).



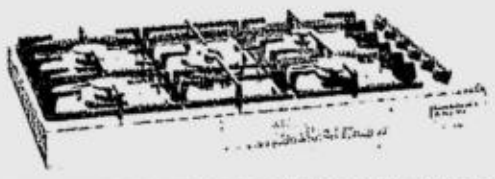






THERE is a huge demand for flat-screen television sets which Western anticipated with its wide selection on display. Choose from Plasma, LCD, and Projection TVs offered by world-class brands such as Sony, JVC, Pioneer, Panasonic, Sharp, Philips, TCL, Samsung, Ariston, Toshiba, Magic Sing, iPod, and Sanyo. See the latest designs in refrigerators from GE. For 'audiophiles,' there are Pioneer car stereos on board. This store has almost everything one wants and needs.

The Heavy Duty Cooktop for Your Clean Kitchen



THE NEW ARISTON PROFESSIONAL SERIES cooktop has a powerful 5kw bi-power burner that uses two separate flames with independent controls to provide a full spectrum of heat power. Since it has two separate controls, you can turn on (or off) the two rings independently—so flexible!

The appearance is as remarkable as the performance. Its sleek, brushed stainless finish adds dimension to the modern and minimalist, simple-lined design. It also has a heavy duty cast iron pan support and metallic knobs to reinforce the professional look and exude elegance. With Ariston, your kitchen will be the showcase of your home and despite the heavy use, will stay that way for your important guests for a long, long time.

Ariston, Italy's no.1 brand, is on display at the Ariston showroom located on the 4th Level Shangri-La Plaza mall (631-8282). Other branches are on the 4th Level of Glorietta 4 (inside Home Buddies with tel. 887-0075), and MC Home Depot Fort Bonifacio (815-8875). Ariston is also available in all leading appliance stores. Ariston is the only kitchen appliance which offers a 3-year warranty.

No cash now? Western gives ZERO-percent interest on big and small appliances. Its tie-up with credit cards eases the pressure with easy payments

Another first from GE - CleaN Steel Refrigerators

Innovative stainless-like design holds magnets and makes clean-up a breeze

All proud parents like to see their child's fingerpainting masterpieces displayed on the family refrigerator, not the child's fingerprints. With GE's new CleanSteel™ refrigerator, the artwork stays—the fingerprints don't.

In fact, the new GE CleanSteel refrigerators were designed solely for consumers who like the look of stainless steel without the fingerprints or the inability to hold magnets.

"In the United States, 20 percent—or one in five—of all no-frost refrigerators sold the first three months of 2005 were stainless," according to Robert Rogers, refrigeration marketing manager for GE Consumer and Industrial. "However, some consumers are still hesitant to purchase stainless steel refrigerators for their kitchen because of its inability to hold magnets and the way fingerprints show so easily."

CleanSteel is the answer to those consumer concerns. This new finish from GE offers the premium stainless look, resists fingerprints, and holds magnets to display everything from to-do lists to photographs.

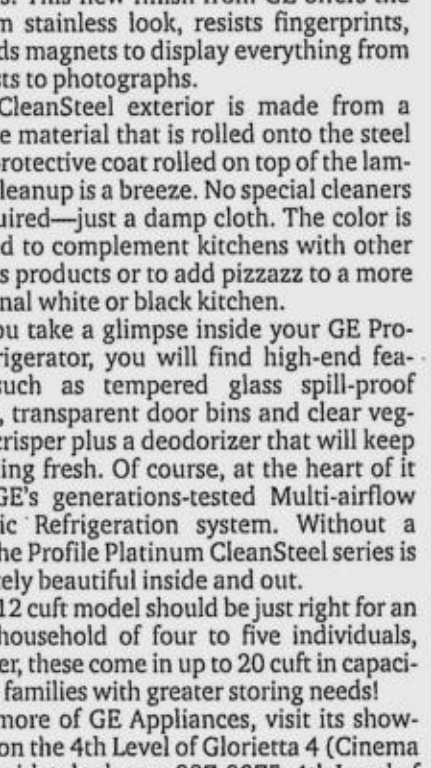
The CleanSteel exterior is made from a laminate material that is rolled onto the steel with a protective coat rolled on top of the laminate. Cleanup is a breeze. No special cleaners are required—just a damp cloth. The color is designed to complement kitchens with other stainless products or to add pizzazz to a more traditional white or black kitchen.

As you take a glimpse inside your GE Profile refrigerator, you will find high-end features such as tempered glass spill-proof shelves, transparent door bins and clear vegetable crisper plus a deodorizer that will keep it smelling fresh. Of course, at the heart of it all is GE's generations-tested Multi-airflow Dynamic Refrigeration system. Without a hitch, the Profile Platinum CleanSteel series is absolutely beautiful inside and out.

The 12 cuft model should be just right for an active household of four to five individuals, However, these come in up to 20 cuft in capacity—for families with greater storing needs!

For more of GE Appliances, visit its showrooms on the 4th Level of Glorietta 4 (Cinema Level) with telephones 887-0075, 4th Level of Shangri-La Mall with telephones 631-8282 and in MC Home Depot Fort Bonifacio with telephones 815-8875.

THE NEW GE CleanSteel refrigerators are designed solely for consumers who like the look of stainless steel without the fingerprints and ability to hold magnets,

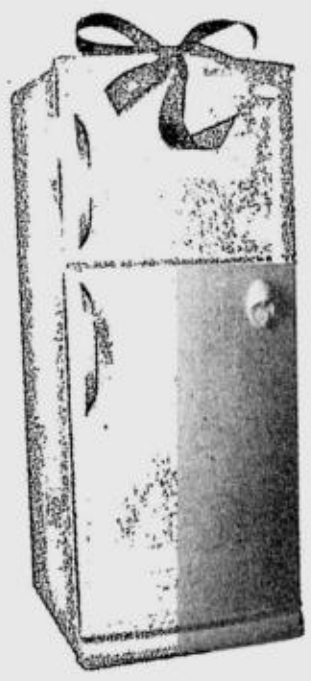


GE Consumer & Industrial Appliances

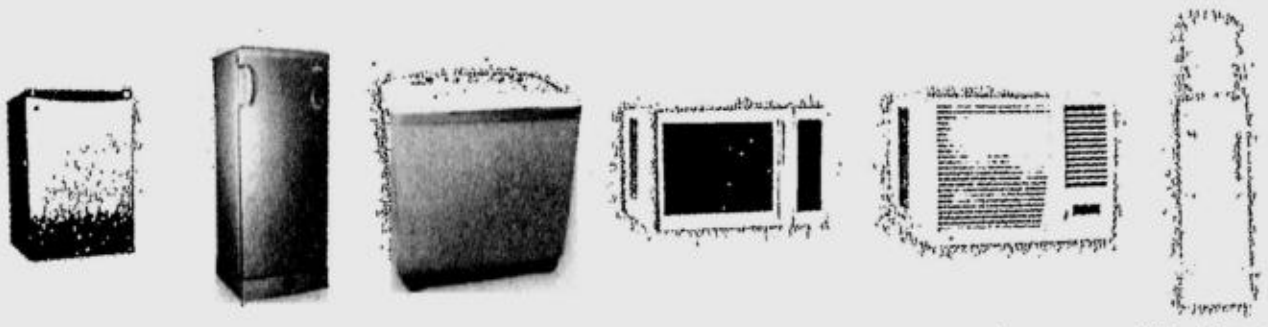
Cool gift. Warm reception.

If you're looking for a wedding gift that will have the couple remember you warmly for life, get a GE, the ref that's built to last and last and last. It's America's most preferred appliance brand.*

Buy selected GE products today and get a free stand fan. Hurry. Supplies are limited.**



GE imagination at work



Available at leading appliance stores nationwide.

Official Distributor: CYA Industries, Inc. #103 Mercedes Avenue, Brgy. San Miguel, Pasig City

Showrooms: Shangri-La (02) 631-8282 • Glorietta 4 (02) 887-0075 • MC Home Depot Fort Bonifacio (02) 815-8875

Service Hotline (02) 643-3456
Nationwide service and call centers available.

*Source: Harris Poll, 2003

**Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 6385, Series of 2005.

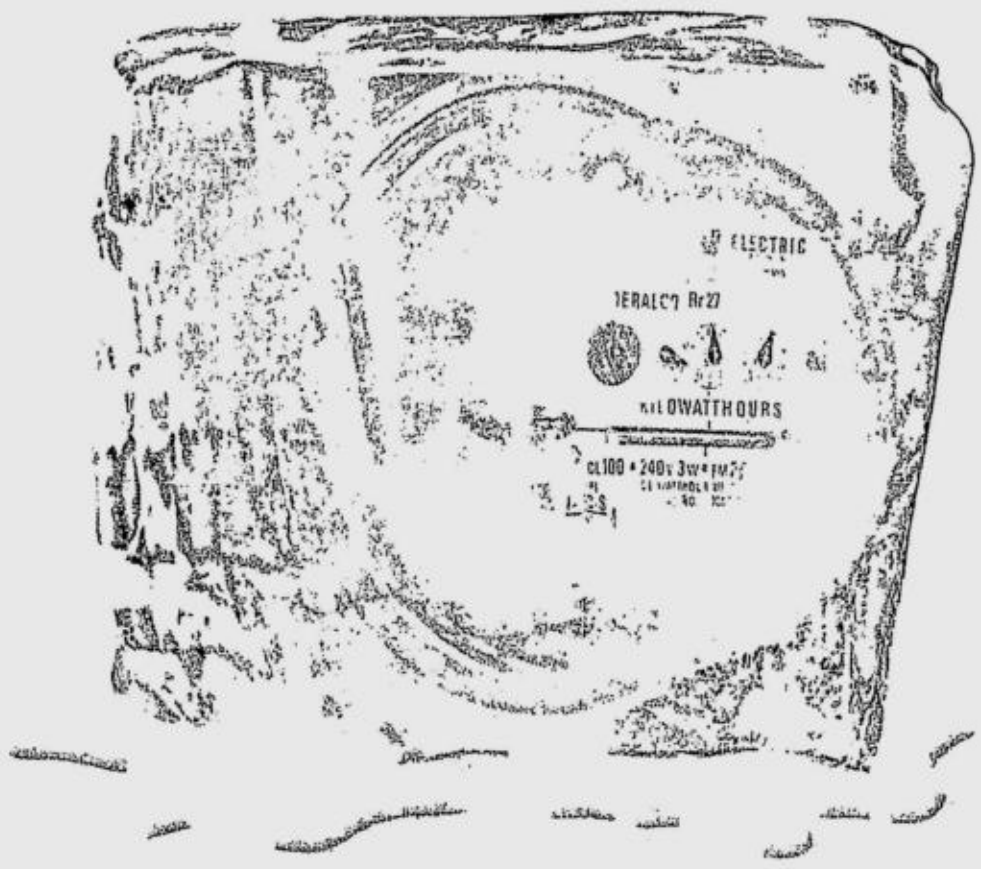
UNBELIEVABLY affordable!

ITEMS Exclusively Available at Makati Branch

www.sanyo.com

Consumes P7.50 a day

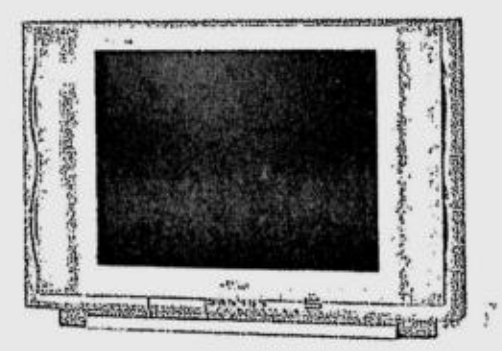
Two dazzling new TVs from Sanyo

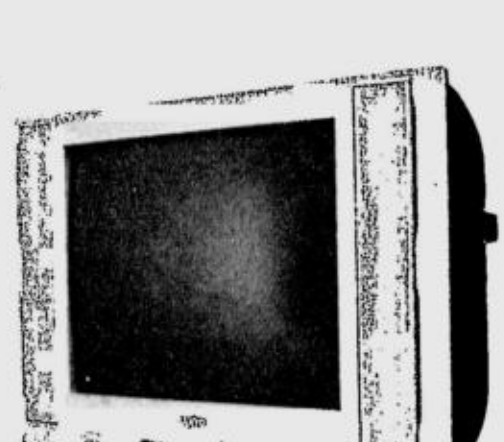


SANYO JUMPSTARTS THE Christmas season with two new TV models: the Dynamic Platinum Flat ST-21KF2 and the Dynamic Stream ST-21MX2.

The Dynamic Platinum Flat ST-21KF2 boasts of a flat screen with Plug & Play capability, full audio control, surround sound as well as a bass expander for that rich, heart-thumping sound. A color enhancer and video status memory optimizes picture quality.

The Dynamic Stream ST-21MX2 features full AV stereo, bass expander and surround sound as well as Plug & Play capability. The ST-21KF2 has a retail price of P10,995 and the ST-21MX2 sells for P6,995. Enjoy brilliant color and crystal clear sound this season with Sanyo's latest TVs.





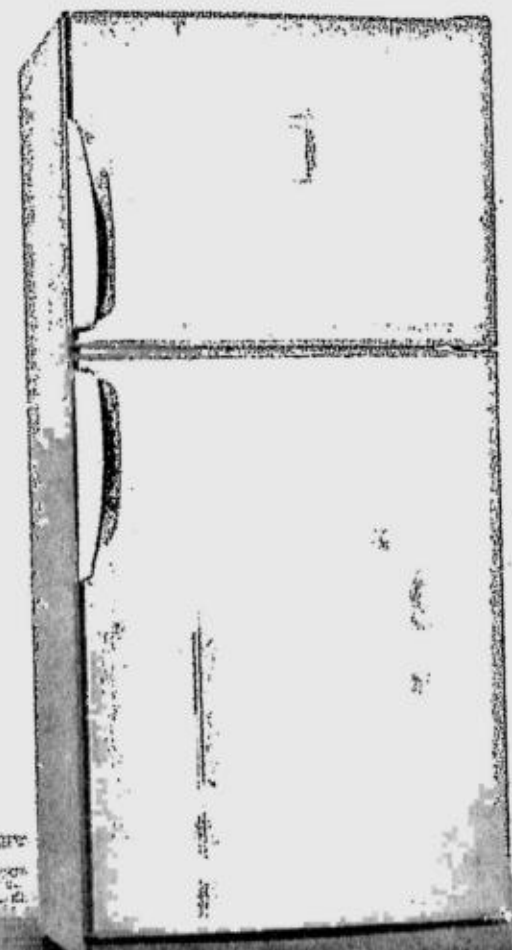
Put your electric bill on ice

Enjoy the convenience of no frost at the power cost of a regular refrigerator

For only P7.50 a day in electricity cost, the same consumption of a regular refrigerator, you can give the increasing rates a cold shoulder. Your new power savers Kleo features a highly efficient compressor and improved freezer fan motor that consumes 78% less electricity. Twin fan motors and wide multi directional air flow that allow for more precise and efficient cooling by lessening compressor use.

Store more food longer, without odors

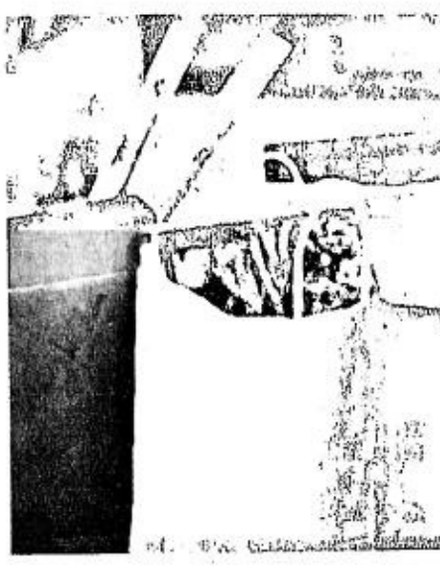
Annoying food odor problems inside the fridge are over with the Platinum Beam deodorizer. Pack more veggies and make them last longer with a jumbo crisper equipped with moisture control. Welcome the new SANYO Kleo and big savings into your home. Today.



SANYO

LIKE NEVER BEFORE

*Approximate daily electricity cost (generation charge) as of August 2005.



'Red, green and Gold'

Shopping season begins

Local retailers' haven

By Marlet D. Salazar

The flourishing of malls has virtually changed the landscape of Philippine retail industry. In many ways, their entry has altered the Philippine way of life.

"Malling" has gone beyond shopping. If schools and offices are second homes, for some, malls have somehow become their third.

Thousands of people flock to malls everyday. Their reasons for going are diverse. Foremost is to shop, pick up some items in the grocery, to while away time to avoid the traffic, and also as meeting place for friends.

Malls, in many ways, help small/medium to big and established entrepreneurs have a venue that can reach out to consumers from all walks of life. It allows them to have a wide range of choices, albeit sometimes a few pesos higher from other stores.

This change in the buying lifestyle in the country has encouraged local-based businesses to flourish.

According to Rowena M. Tomeldan, vice president of the Ayala Land's commercial center group, 65 percent of local stores and 35 percent of foreign concepts comprise the establishments of Ayala malls.

Tomeldan cited several reasons for this.

"The proliferation of bazaars has given the budding Filipino entrepreneurs the opportunity to 'get their feet wet' in retail with less monetary risk," she said. "This experience gives them a chance to learn the business, improve on their products, and know their customers in detail, before getting a regular mall space."

She also noted that a lot of government and private sector support the efforts of entrepreneurs in terms of lower cost of financing, technology and process development, and marketing.

One reason that may have the most impact on Filipino entrepreneurs is the success of local retailers both here and abroad. Filipino brands were able to penetrate foreign markets.

"It boosted the confidence of our entrepreneurs to go and try to duplicate this sterling performance," said Tomeldan. "The strong performances of Filipino brands have inspired our bazaar, cart and kiosks entrepreneurs to go to the next level."

The influx of local brands in the market is the product of the ability of local retailers to become highly innovative, creative, and forward-looking, according to Tomeldan.

"They are passionate, constantly surprising with fresh and exciting concepts," she said. "They are adaptable and are able to quickly adjust to the preferences and needs of the market."

She noted that local brands are able to compete, and even surpass, the performance of top foreign brands. "Some local brands have even made their mark in the international market notably Bench, Gingersnaps, Figaro, Jollibee, Kamiseta, and Penshoppe."

The retail sector continues to be a strong driver of the Philippine economy. According to the National Statistical Coordination Board, the retail sector's contribution to the GNP was 11 percent in 2003 and 18 percent in 2004. The retail industry has managed to grow by 6.3 percent in 2003 and 6.5 percent in 2004 with the growth coming mainly from the mobile telecoms sector.

The stronger retailers manage to grow by an average rate of 11 percent year on year since 2001.

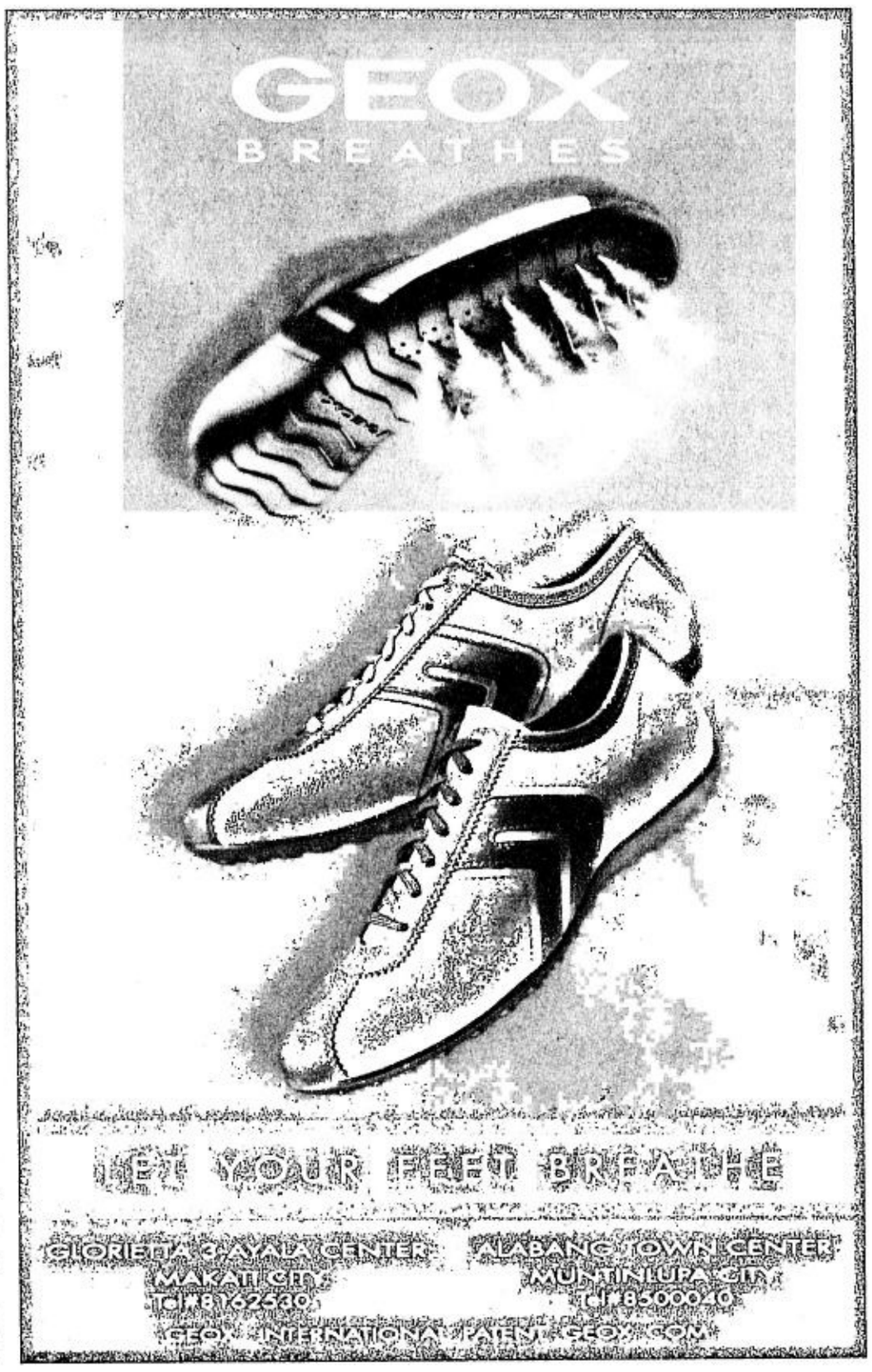
"We see them embarking on innovative marketing campaigns including sales promotions and loyalty programs; refreshed product concepts and adjusted pricing to meet the ever-changing market demands," Tomeldan said.

In the experience of Ayala malls, which hosted a number of start-up local brands that continues to make waves, 85 percent succeed in their retail venture.

Who else knows the preferences of Filipinos but Filipinos themselves? This could be one of the reasons local brands are more appealing to the market.

"Local brands (retailers) have a solid

LOCAL/ K2



Non-stop fiesta at Tiendesitas

A non-stop fiesta awaits villagers when they troop to the newly opened Tiendesitas of the Ortigas & Company.

Since its opening last month and the non-stop shopping experience that it offers, the newest member of the Ortigas family also features a wide array of food and delicacy for the villagers' taste bud.

Meaning "little store" in Spanish, the newest shopping hub in the metropolis has a delicacies village wherein 56 stalls offer delicacies from different regions of the country.

Its food village, on the other hand, has 46 stalls selling mouth-watering chow that will surely attract shoppers from all over the metropolis.

The two villages feature food and delicacies ranging from the original Vigan empanada, fresh fruits from Davao like durian, mangosteen and mangoes among others to organic and fresh vegetables from Baguio and Benguet.

Lovers of sizzling food need not feel left out as they can have a taste of the original sisig from Pampanga while they do their shopping.

For fish fanatics, fresh seafoods are also available to satisfy the connoisseurs' discriminating taste.

Villagers with the sweet tooth are also in for a treat as suman in different flavors like chocolate, *ube, langka*, etc. which are available for them to choose from.

Not to be outdone are the Filipino favorite *merienda* specialties like *halo-halo, bibingka, puto bungbong*, native *kakanin* and *pancit*.

Native dishes like Bacolod's famous chicken *inasal*, sizzling *lechon*, Pancit ng taga-Malabon, assorted BBQ, *sisig*, pork, bangus, chicken and other regional delicacies are also on hand for food loving villagers.

While feasting on their chosen delicacy, shoppers can choose from a wide array of natural fruit juices to wash down their meal.

After a big meal, shoppers can chat with friends over a cup of Batangas, Kalinga or Malay-Balay coffee depending on their choice.

And before calling it a day, they can take a late stroll around to look for possible choices of pasalubong to the family, friends and relatives.

A wide selection of special dries fish and *pili* from Bicol, famous *balut* from Pateros, tuna from Gensan, crispy shrimps, *cornick* and *bagnet* from Ilocos, *taba ng talangka, burong dalag*, bottled smoked fish and oysters from Aklan or the well-loved boneless *bangus* from Dagupan await them.

Villagers can also choose what variety of rice to cook from Nueva Ecija's Jasponica and Balatinao from Benguet.

For the dessert lovers, they can choose from the home-baked *putong ube* and pastries, *kesong puti* or *gatas ng kalabaw* from Nueva Ecija.

That is if they still have some space in their tummy after a trip to the non-stop fiesta at the Tiendesitas.

GEOX BREATHES

Everything you should know about feet and shoes

The Thermoregulation:
Sweat allows our body to thermoregulate: as it Evaporates we cool down. One of the areas of the body with the greatest concentration of sudoriferous glands is the foot sole, which has to bear our weight and the effects of our movement.

The Problem :
Our feet produce up to 100 litres of sweat a year! Rubber soles cause condensation on the sole on the foot giving you that classic feeling of the wet feet. Rubber soles create a plastic-bag effect around the foot.

The Solution :
The perforated rubber contains a special microporous membrane that absorbs and expels sweat without letting water in. The membrane's micropores are smaller than the water drops, which therefore cant pass through the membrane, but they are larger than the water vapour molecules. Sweat, in form of water vapour, can pass through the membrane and out through the perforated sole. The thermographic test shows that the foot wearing a shoe with a conventional rubber sole is much more overheated (reddened) than the foot wearing GEOX.

The shoe that breathes

Pre-yuletide must-have: Fuji mobile phone photo printer

THIS SEASON'S MUCH-DESIRED PRESENT is not going to be delivered in Santa's sack since it fits snuggly in the pouch of one of his little helpers.

With the coming season of parties and get-togethers, camera phone users should not be without the portable Fujifilm Mobile Printer Pivi, a hip and hi-tech pre-Christmas gift for the self or for loved ones.

Fujifilm Mobile Printer Pivi is a pocket printer for camera phones, weighing only 210gms (about as light as an apple) and is 29mm thick. It can print credit card-size pictures of your holiday happenings in a snap, it's like having a digital photo-processing lab in your bag!

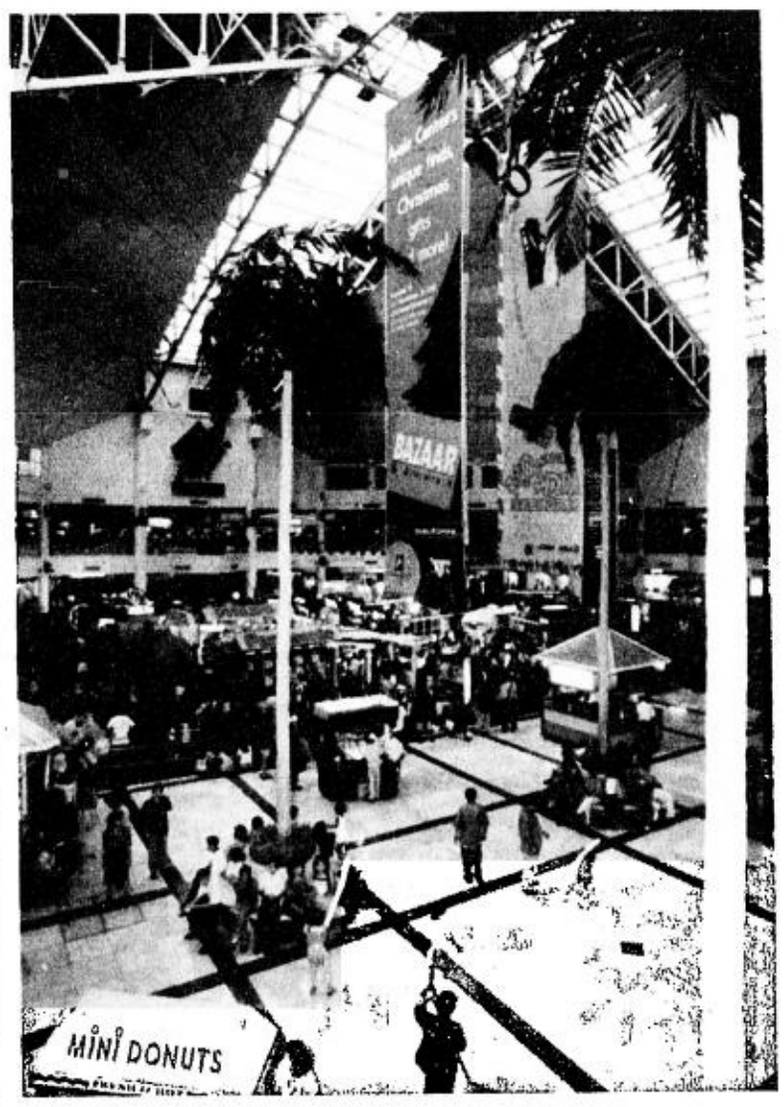
Through the infrared feature, you can beam yuletide images taken with your mobile phone camera onto the Fujifilm Mobile Printer Pivi. Only 21 seconds after the pocket printer receives the data, you will have an instant print. It's going to be a hit during Christmas parties because you can share copies with friends by merely touching the "reprint" button.

It is wireless so tech-challenged people won't be encumbered by media-links ups and cable connections, while tech-savvy folks will be pleased that the gadget is equipped with an Image Intelligence software that auto corrects under/overexposed shots. It has a stylish body that fashion-forward individuals will go for, and practical people will approve of its great functionality.

Buy one for your family, get the gadget for yourself as a reward for a year's hard work, or give it as a Christmas present to someone very special. The product is available at leading electronic, cellphone retail stores and photo shops.

Local retailers' haven

From page K1



understanding of the likes and dislikes of the Filipino," Tomeldan said. "These insights have guided the local retailers in their product mix, pricing and promotions."

Consumers go for brand, quality, and price (not necessarily in that order) when purchasing an item. The malls have served as a one-stop shop for consumers.

"It is about giving them a wide range of options and the best value for their money," said Tomeldan. "More importantly, we believe in presenting these products to our market in a comfortable, safe and secure environment, thus giving them an enjoyable mall experience."

Consumers usually buy their basic needs in the mall. But these days, there is an increasing trend toward other categories. Tomeldan stated home, pampering and wellness, and sports houses as slowly becoming popular among consumers.

Shopping malls opened a broad spectrum for consumer needs, and a broader avenue for local entrepreneurs.

This development allows local retailers to be bullish and confident that the industry will continue with its strong performance.

"Our local retailers will continue to raise the bar in terms of developing new concepts and create more retail opportunities," Tomeldan said.

"The overseas Filipino workers and the call center/business process outsourcing are the emerging strong markets seen by local retailers.

"If we are able to serve these new markets, these sectors can boost the retail spending in the country," she said.

TEE GIFTS

we've got all the

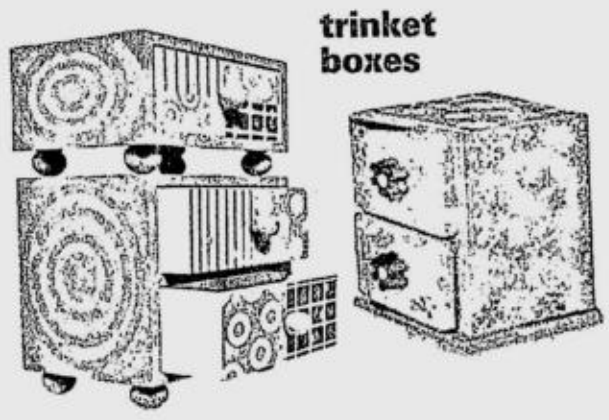
fun frame-ups

color-coded tee zone

step on it

At the Children's Wear, Shoes and Accessories Departments, we've got all the nice and cool gift ideas for the kiddies

trinket boxes



picture perfect

good hair day

tee time

mug mania

shoe biz

We've got it all for you!

there are some things money can't buy. for everything else there's MasterCard.™

rewards and benefits every time you shop

SM DEPARTMENT STORE

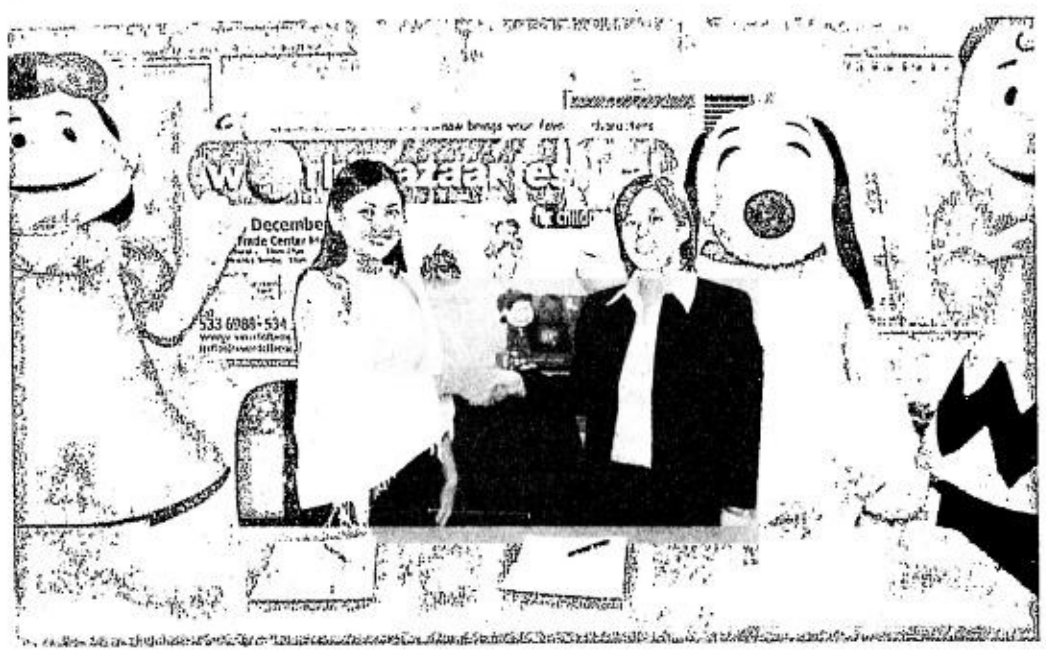
QUIAPO • MAKATI • CUBAO • HARRISON • NORTH EDSA • STA. MESA • ORTIGAS • LAS PINAS • BACOOR • FAIRVIEW • MANILA • PAMPANGA • MANDURRIAO
CEBU • DAVAO • CAGAYAN DE ORO • BICUTAN • LUCENA • BAGUIO • MARILAO • DASMARINAS • BATANGAS • DELGADO • SAN LAZARO • SUCAT

ST. FRANCIS SQUARE, THE NEWEST SHOPPING DESTINATION

St. Francis Square Tiangge Mall opened its doors to the public Oct. 21. The ribbon cutting ceremonies were led by (left photo, from left) Mandaluyong City Administrator Ernesto E. Victorino, Marciano Facun, Rev. Peter Tanchi, lawyers Julio Elamparo and Rodolfo Tuazon, Johnny Tan and Luke Roxas. On that same day, balloons were released to launch the 'Cellphones From the Sky' promo wherein everyone was given a chance to own a cellphone. The balloons had gift certificates attached to them, and whoever found these GCs could use them to purchase a cell phone or cell phone accessories of their choice at any St. Francis Square cell phone stall. Shown releasing the balloons were St. Francis Square talents (right photo, from left) Martin Gallego, Rachel Felicia, Kelly Ilusorio, and Christian Emmanuel Yu. St. Francis Square is located at the corner of Julia Vargas and Bank Drive.

WORLDBEX, RM ENTERPRISE LTD INK MOA FOR 5TH WORLD BAZAAR FESTIVAL

Worldbex Services International (WSI) has finalized its agreement with RM Enterprise Limited Philippines, making the latter a supporting partner for the WSI-organized World Bazaar Festival slated on Dec. 8 to 16, at the World Trade Center in Pasay City. Shown during the signing are (from left): Gina Genterola (marketing manager, RM Enterprise Limited, Phils) and Jill Aithnie Ang (managing director, WSI).



How rewarding are credit card rewards points?

Have you often wondered what those rewards points that you see on your credit card's statement of account mean? These are actually rebates that you earn for every certain amount of purchase that you charge to your credit card. Simply put, these serve as your 'reward' for using your credit card every so often - hence, the name 'rewards points.'

In the Philippines where there are 16 credit card companies vying for the biggest share of the 4.5 million cardholder base, rewards points have become a major come-on to cardholders. In fact, nearly all card issuers have introduced their own unique methods of offering points, sets of rewards items, and means by which their cardholders can avail themselves of these rewards. As rewards programs become more and more competitive, cardholders are beginning to look for bigger and better ways by which they want to be rewarded.

More than financial flexibility, they look for bigger perks, more exciting benefits, better rewards items and so on and so forth. The challenge that confronts credit card companies, therefore, is to come up with the rewards program that will please their cardholders and entice holders of other card brands to switch over to their brand.

Credit card industry pioneer Bankard Inc has hit on the right idea and this is, to give its cardholders an infinite array of rewards and make his life as a cardholder infinitely rewarding. What does this mean? Simply put, it means rewarding the cardholder in everything he does. From the time he gets his card, he is given a Welcome Treat. Then every P25 he charges to his card earns him a point. He accumulates these points until he is able to get the rewards items he wants. Where does he base his choices? From the items sold in leading malls like Robinsons, Rustan's and Shoemart. How can he do this? Simple. Bankard's rewards program, aptly dubbed "Infinite Rewards" is catalog-free and the points are exchanged for gift checks from these leading department stores. Or, the rewards vouchers can be used directly as payment for goods and services. The points can also be applied to the succeeding year's annual fees.

"In short, Bankard's cardholders are rewarded not when they start making purchases but the minute they become a cardholder," says Bankard marketing and sales group head Irene Taylo.

As a welcome treat, "our cardholders get freebies and special gift items that would make them feel instantly rewarded for choosing Bankard," Taylo says. The rewarding continues at their first usage and becomes more exciting as they use their card more often. Thus, as they maintain their good standing, their life as Bankard cardholders becomes more and more infinitely rewarding.

Bankard Infinite Rewards is available to holders of Bankard MasterCard, Bankard Visa, and Bankard JCB.

HBC finds new home in Caloocan and Bulacan

HBC, THE HOME OF BEAUTY Exclusives reaches out to more Filipinos as it recently opens its branches in Caloocan and Balagtas, Bulacan. With over 150 branches nationwide, HBC is fulfilling its commitment to meet every Filipina's demand for high quality beauty care brands called "Beauty Exclusives" that's affordable, convenient, and can be found only in HBC stores.

HBC is set to deliver its world-class products to the Bulakeños as it starts its new branch located along McArthur Highway in Balagtas, Bulacan. Now, beauty that's easy on the budget is just within their reach. In Manila, HBC customers from the northern area need to go no further for that expert beauty care. HBC has also established its new home in Caloocan located near the Caloocan Commercial Complex. The company likewise stretches its arms farther to serve the Cebuanos with its store outlet at the 2nd floor of Robinson's Place Cebu. These three new branches certainly add empowerment to the Filipina beauty, giving her the much needed convenience and utmost accessibility to her favorite HBC brands, indeed a Tatak Exclusibo!

For a complete listing of branches or for inquiries, call HBC Customer Care, HBC Home of Beauty Exclusives, G/F HBC Corporate Center, 548 Mindanao Avenue corner Quirino Highway, Novaliches, Quezon City. Or call 984-3288 or 984-5555 loc 228, send text messages to 0918-9215520. You may also log in to HBC's official website at http://www.hbc.com.ph.

'Red, green and Gold' shopping season begins

The local retail boom

Since the trade liberalization and the lowering of tariffs were put in place in the 1990s, the local retail industry has become a highly competitive environment; under such condition--the consumer benefits

By Raquel P. Gomez

BIG RETAILERS ARE NOW LITERALLY GOing to rural communities to get consumer attention and encourage buying in that area. Local brands are enjoying popularity and parity with foreign competition. The retail market is inundated by lots of products and services that cater to every type of consumer. And consumers enjoy better pricing, from the most low-end to the most high-end products.

Since the trade liberalization and the lowering of tariffs were put in place in the 1990s, the local retail industry has become a highly competitive environment and under such condition, the consumer benefits, according to lawyer Paul Santos of the Philippine Retail Association.

PRA is an organization established in 1976 by a group of department store owners and managers that aims to make the retail industry a significant contributor and driving force of Philippine economic development.

Santos says the sprouting of shopping malls or established retail stores from highly urbanized areas to the provinces and outlying areas outside of Metro Manila is a good sign that economic activity is being spread out down to the communities.

"Historically, these shopping centers would always want to operate in highly urbanized areas such as Manila, Cebu or Davao. So established retailers going out of traditional home-base to these other areas is good news. It allows or gives consumers more choice. At the same time it increases competition."

Santos says small retailers who are established in these provinces are forced to be more competitive when stores from the city go to their location. As a consequence, competition results in better prices, better services, and better products.

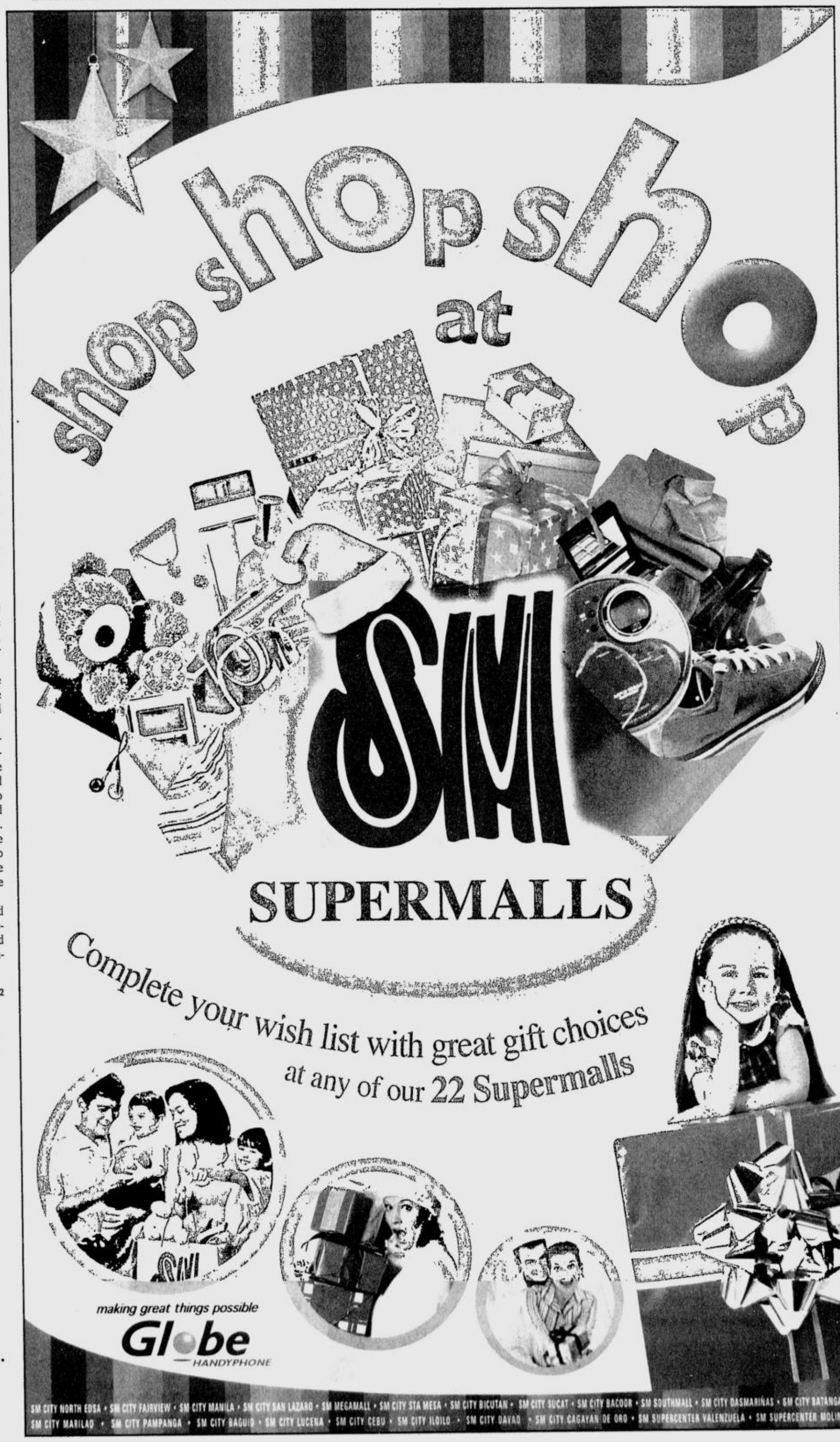
Aside from generating employment in the area, the establishment of malls in the provinces also stimulates spending and consumption in the local economy.

"For example, in an area that's been identified as having less consumption or the people don't want to spend. You analyze the retail landscape of that area and you'd find out that the reason why they don't want to spend is because there's nothing to spend their money on, aside from the necessities. If you have to buy something, you'd have to go to the nearest large town or Metro Manila. So today, products that can be found in Manila can also be found in the provinces."

Santos says the market is now swamped with local brands, particularly in the apparel industry. He adds the local branded apparel now even share parity and popularity with foreign-branded apparel.

RETAIL/ L2

'Historically, these shopping centers would always want to operate in highly urbanized areas such as Manila, Cebu or Davao. So established retailers going out of traditional home-base to these other areas is good news. It allows or gives consumers more choice. At the same time it increases competition.'



The local retail boom

From page L1

"My favorite example would be the women's apparel. Ten years ago, this market was dominated by a few retailers. At that time Bench, Kamiseta, and Penshoppe were just beginning. Today, we not only have these established brands, but at the same time we have other retailers like Plains and Prints, Genevie, Kaschieca and many others. They've looked at the success of their predecessors and they saw that there's still a market even though there's big competition."

Santos says the tendency of consumers to favor "imported" products because of the impression they have more quality, which years ago was a very dominant thinking among Filipinos, has also been erased.

"Wearing 'imported' garment or, consuming an 'imported' product, or using an 'imported' product used to be a big deal 15 to 20 years ago. But now that distinction between 'local' product and 'imported' product is gone. Consumers now look at the brand—whether it's imported or local, it doesn't matter anymore. What matters is what the brand represents to them."

Santos cites two reasons why the "imported" labeling or distinction of product became insignificant to local consumers. First, the local manufacturers and retailers improved the quality of their products and there's an increased effort on branding and marketing. The second reason has something to do with the closure of the US bases in the early 1990s.

"If you recall, before the US bases closed down, there were stores that specialized in selling goods coming from the bases' commissaries. And these goods were labeled 'PX'.

"For the longest time, 'PX goods' used to encompass everything imported. Goods were labeled 'PX' even though they didn't come from the bases. When the bases closed down and the trade liberalization came in, goods that were exclusive to the PX stores can now be found in local supermarkets. They sit side by side with local domestic goods. The distinction between 'local' and 'imported' eventually went away and with it the term 'imported' as a way to describe products also went away.

Santos says the trade liberalization or the putting down of barriers of countries to goods coming to their shores has resulted in the highly competitive retail environment. One positive result of the movement is more product choices and the lowering of prices of goods.

"My best example is toys. Today we have more toys, for every category and for every price level than in any other time in the past. You can get the cheapest toys in Divisoria to the most expensive battery-operated toys in the malls—compared to what I could get when I was a child. There were really very few to pick from and toys were very expensive then. *Noon*, matchbox and tomi toys, but now there's an amazing selection."

Santos cites digital cameras, where price ranges have gone down or stabilized. Eight years ago, the price of 1.2 megapixel cameras went for about P24 thousand, but today, he says you could get a 5-megapixel camera with more features for the same price.

"Twenty-four thousand pesos is certainly much less today than in 1997. In terms of real value, you're getting more with a P24k digital camera than in 1997."

As to the future of retail in the country, Santos says E-commerce, or retail over the new environment of Internet, has yet to become really established, according to Santos. Although local Internet stores are being put up already by a few businessmen.

Santos says it is still far ahead for Filipinos to indulge in Internet retailing or buying. The biggest drawback to E-commerce here is the low level of Internet penetration among households. Most studies indicate that only a low percentage of Filipinos have access to the Internet.

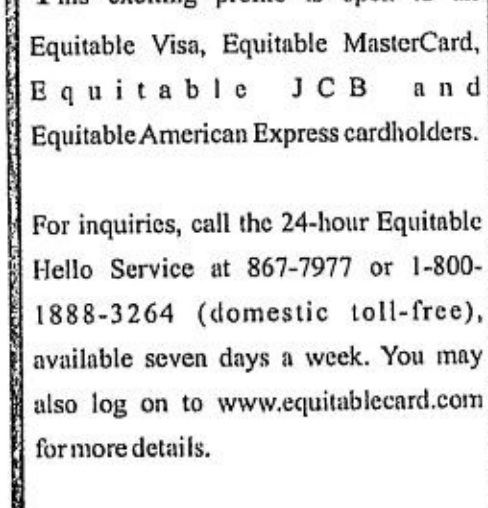
"If you notice, the E-commerce types of business that operate here tend to market their products to Filipinos abroad. The virtual shops sell Filipino goods to Filipinos overseas."

Santos says the competitive spirit of the retail industry trickles down to the micro level. He says even micro retailers such as sari-sari stores and stores in public markets compete heavily.

"One sari-sari store will open early, or one will have delivery, or one will have more selection of products. Generally, there's only one way to describe this business, it's very competitive. But this competition benefits consumers."

EQUITABLE CARD SETS CARDHOLDERS TO A NATIONWIDE SHOPPING INVASION!

Get an early shopping start this yuletide season. Equitable Card's The Incredible 0% Last Quarter Storm Year 3 offers 0% interest on all purchases to boost buying power. Topping it all off is a "buy now, pay next year" offer bringing the holiday spirit up a notch. To highlight the event further, friendly *green guys* pop in everywhere to show you where the great deals are.



So blast off to an encounter of big savings proportion. Swipe your Equitable Cards in hundreds of participating establishments for an out-of-this world deal.

This exciting promo is open to all Equitable Visa, Equitable MasterCard, Equitable JCB and Equitable American Express cardholders.

For inquiries, call the 24-hour Equitable Hello Service at 867-7977 or 1-800-1888-3264 (domestic toll-free), available seven days a week. You may also log on to www.equitablecard.com for more details.

E-Pay INSTALLMENT PLAN

ADVT'L

Equitable CARD

Christmas shopping season starts today

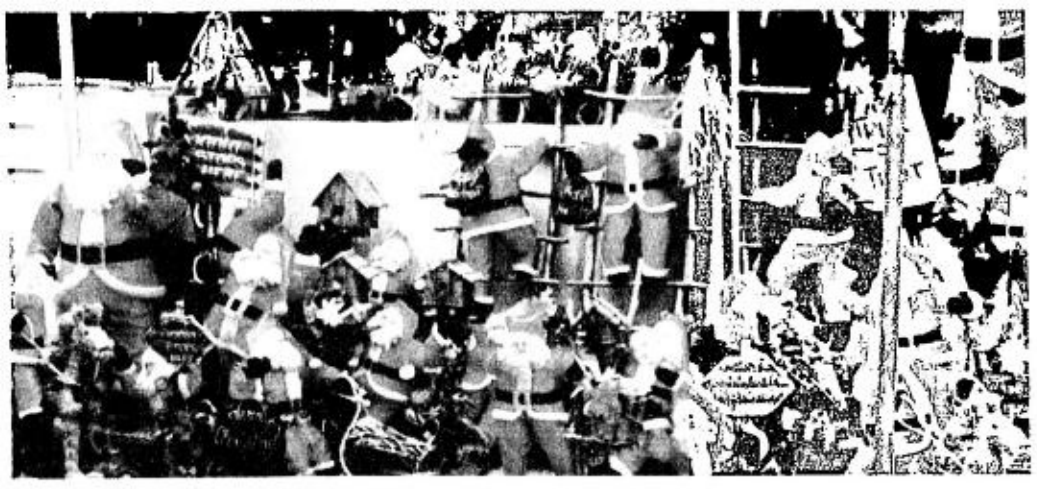
THE HOLIDAY SEASON OF the year officially kicks off today with the Noel Discovery Bazaar and Christmas Expo at the World Trade Center. Having been associated with the official start of the holiday shopping season for the past five years, Noel's watch list could not be any better. From Nov. 25 to Nov. 27, witness one-of-a-kind fashion items, home and Christmas decors, food items and a lot more personal and gift ideas that cannot be seen anywhere else.

Expected guests to do the ceremonial cutting of the ribbon include GMA Network's president Felipe L. Gozon, EVP and COO Gilberto R. Duavit, GMA Kapuso Foundation executive director Mel Tiangco, Bantayog ng mga Bayani Foundation chair Ambassador Alfonso T. Yuchengco, Chairman Emeritus Sen. Jovito R. Salonga and executive director Quintin S. Doromal; and Philippine Daily Inquirer president and CEO Sandy Prieto-Romualdez and Inquirer product manager Hazel Soriaga. They will be joined by Jolina Magdangal and other GMA artists.

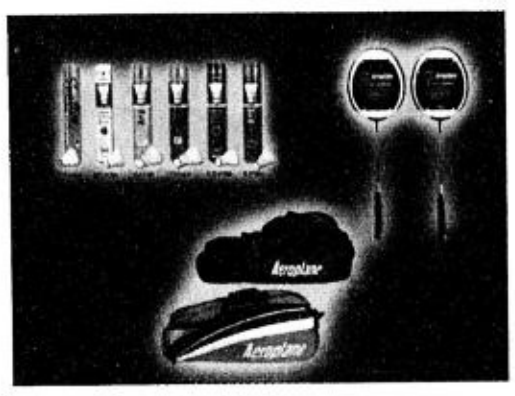
GMA celebrities will not only entertain the visitors through song and dance numbers, but through their wares as well. It is not a secret that most artists have embarked on businesses, from cute fashion items to fragrances and apparels. And aside from their entertainment numbers, there will be arts and crafts activities for kids and fashion shows to delight everyone, young and old.

In all, the Noel Discovery Bazaar and Christmas Shop Expo promises to be a kick off event like no other. After everything has been said and done, it all boils down to shopping, shopping and more shopping fun. And ultimately, this is where Noel draws the line. There might be other bazaars, but in the end, in the battle of wares and gift ideas, trinkets and goodies, fashion lines and shapes, Noel's list simply tops them all.

This event is supported by GMA Network, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Centrex, The Foreign Post, Morelatto, Citibank and Pier One. The event will benefit the projects of the GMA Kapuso, Bantayog ng mga Bayani and Associate Missionaries of Assumption Foundations.



Aeroplane products at Christmas Lifestyle Expo



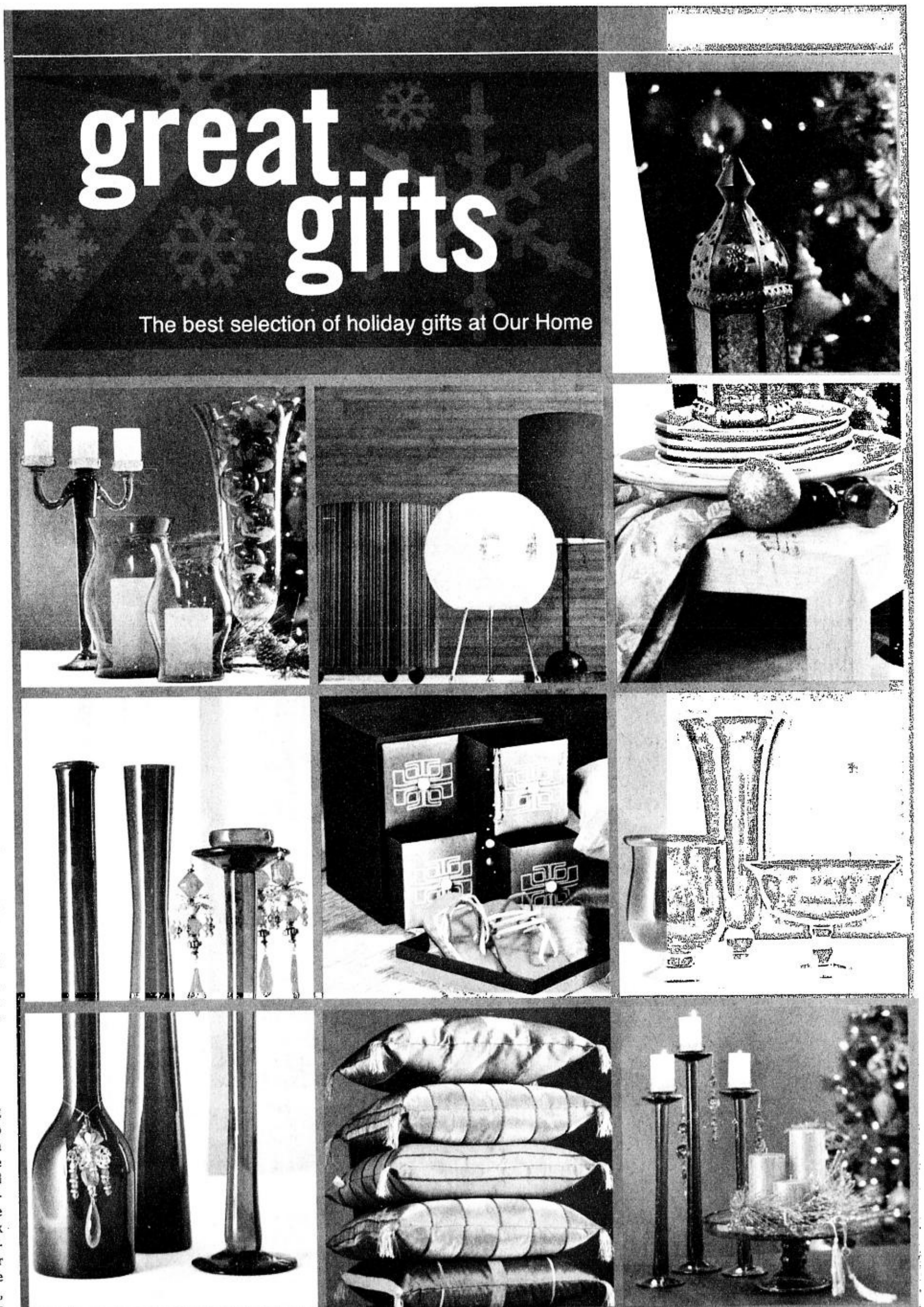
STOP BY THE BOOTH OF BIOTECH ASIA Inc. at the Christmas Lifestyle Expo, Dec 2 to 4, at the World Trade Center, for the lowest prices on Aeroplane badminton shuttlecocks, racquets, bags (as shown in photo). Cordizen and Essenza health supplements, and other accessories will also be available during the 3-day exhibit. Aeroplane badminton shuttlecocks use only select high grade goose feathers for durability and flight stability. While Aeroplane badminton racquets are made from T600 carbon fabric and titanium reinforced frames for the lightest but hard hitting smashes. A Christmas Bazaar will be one of the major attractions at the expo together with personal items to health & fitness and sporting products among others. The Christmas Lifestyle Expo is being presented in cooperation with the Lifestyle Network. Sponsors include Sign Media, Business World, Working Mom, and 97.9 Manila Home Radio, among others. For details and inquiries, contact L.A. Ducut and Company Inc., at (Manila) 873-8202, 873-1198; (0917) 838-2183; (0921) 455-2829; (Cebu) 032-2323729 or 3740; (0916) 613-9179; email lifestyleexpo@laducut.com or log on to www.christmaslifestyleexpo.com.

Bazaar at WTCMM

GO ALL-OUT SHOPPING THIS SEASON of giving! Hop over to the World Trade Center in Roxas Boulevard for the biggest shopping extravaganza to hit this side of the metropolis. Christmas Bazaar 2005, from Nov. 25 to 27 at 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., offers anything and everything you need at affordable prices. Plus, there will be mini-concerts and shows during the bazaar. Entrance is absolutely free, so do your yuletide shopping at the World Trade Center and have a very merry Christmas. For Inquiries and reservations, call Isa Jacinto at 0917-8574677 or 726-5571, or fax 725-3525.

Be an Exhibitor at the 5th World Bazaar Festival

THE BAZAAR THAT BROUGHT YOU THE real Santa Claus from Finland is gearing up for another world class exhibit at the 5th World Bazaar Festival at the World Trade Center on Dec. 8 to 16. Last year's World Bazaar featured various displays from embassies, celebrities and international trade offices and nifty Christmas gift items at rock bottom prices. Organized by Worldbex Services International (WSI), the World Bazaar Festival currently holds an annual average of over 500 booths and 180,000 shoppers, making it the most attended Christmas bazaar in the Philippines to date. The 5th in the series, this year's World Bazaar Festival will bring international Cartoon Characters and movie stars to prove a unique Christmas shopping experience. Exhibits will feature all kinds of products ranging from toys, clothes, sporting goods, books, music products, houseware, kitchenware, novelties, home and office furnishings, Christmas decorations and many more. Slots are still available so be an exhibitor now! For more information, please call 534-3615, 533-6988, 534-1334 or 0918-9424303, prospective exhibitors can also fax at 533-2026, or log on to www.worldbex.com.



'Isuzu Holidazed' makes Christmas season truly merry

THE COUNTRY'S LEADER IN DIESEL technology makes Christmas vehicle shopping merrier with the "Isuzu Holidazed Promo". Buyers of selected Isuzu models and variants will be treated to value-packed financing deals and freebies from Nov. 14 to 30.

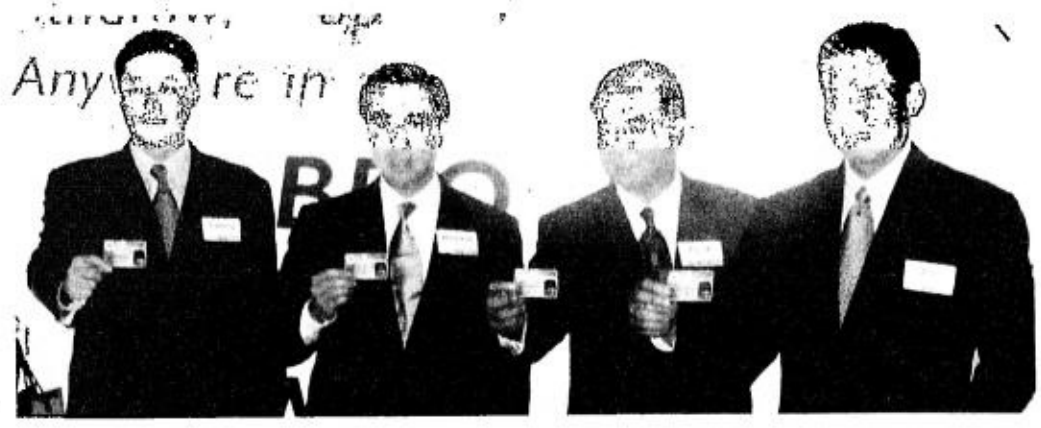
Isuzu buyers can choose between low down payment (as low as 15 percent) and low monthly financing deals (up to 72 months) on selected 2005 Crosswind variants-as low as P134,000 down payment on the Isuzu Crosswind XUVi A/T, or as low as P10,137 monthly amortization for the Isuzu Crosswind XUV A/T.

Other than the low down payment and low monthly options, zero-percent interest deals are available for the Isuzu D-Max LS 4x4. A low P145,750 down payment or low monthly amortization of P12,795 for the Isuzu D-Max LS 4x4 M/T awaits pickup buyers.

Low down payment, low monthly and zero-percent interest financing options are likewise available to Isuzu Alterra buyers. An Isuzu Alterra 4x2 A/T can be acquired for as low as P13,699 on a 72-month term; a 4x2 M/T variant can also be had for as low as a 10-percent down payment of P138,900. Zero-percent interest deals are available to a 25 to 50-percent down-payment range/12-month-term combination.

"Isuzu Holidazed" further offers freebie items, making this promo a value-filled blowout. SM gift certificates worth P5,000 come free with every purchase of any 2006 Isuzu Crosswind or Isuzu D-Max LX 4x2 variant. One-year comprehensive insurance shall also be given free to buyers of Isuzu D-Max LS 4x4 variants or D-Max LE 4x4 A/T.

Details and test-drive units are available at all authorized Isuzu dealerships nationwide.



BDO launches international ATM card

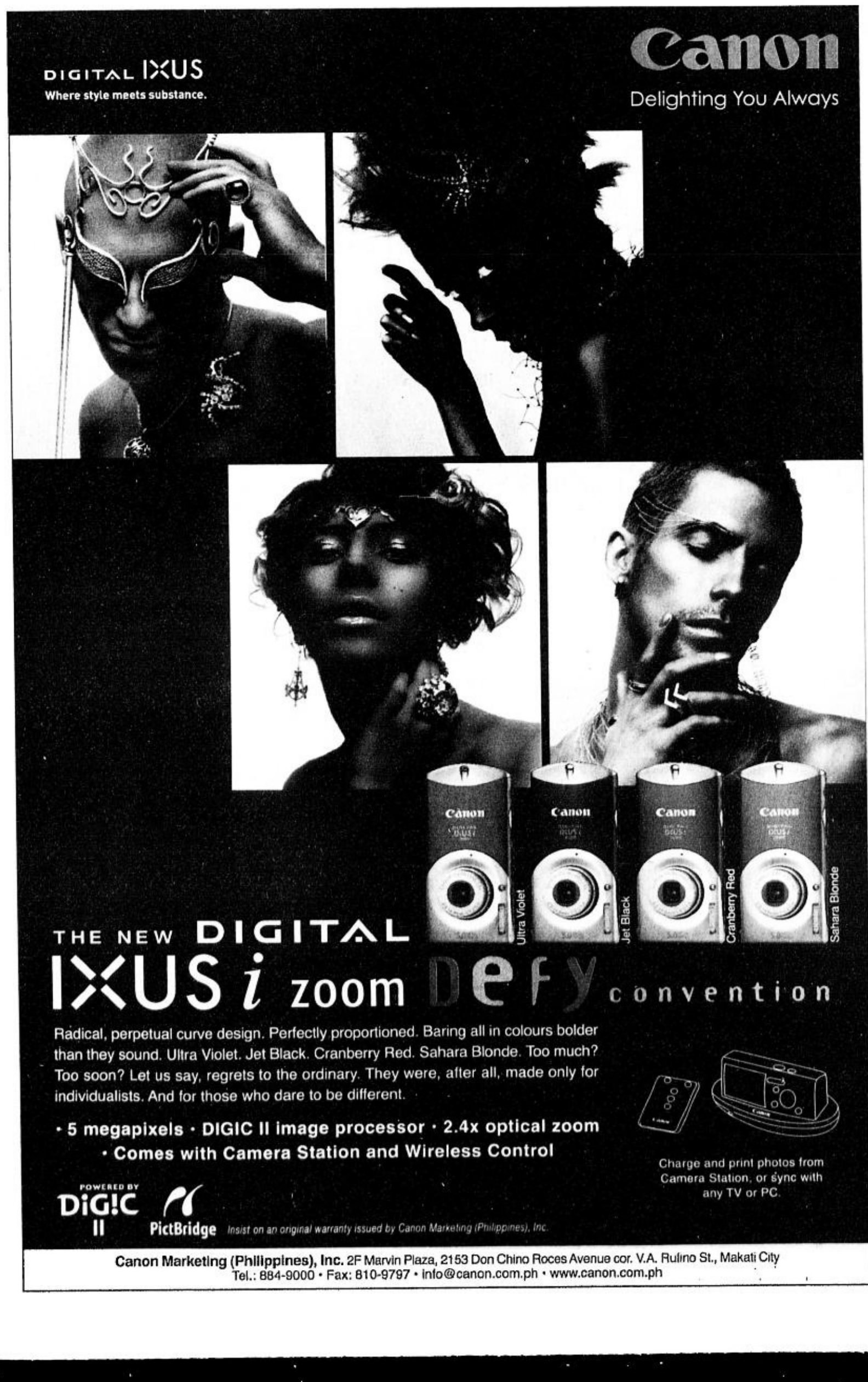
BANCO DE ORO RECENTLY LAUNCHED the BDO International ATM Card, the first MasterCard Electronic ATM card in the country. With the new BDO International ATM card, one can access his account anywhere in the world, thus making it a perfect companion for business or leisure trips.

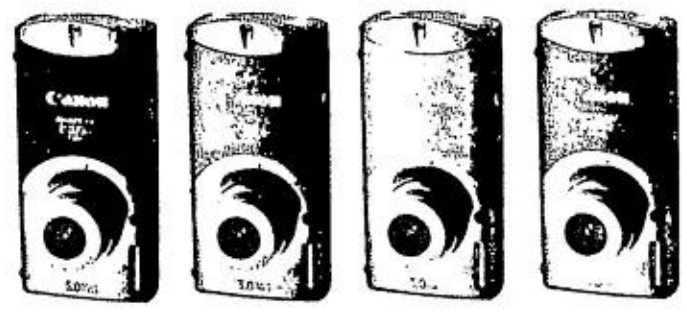
Cash can be withdrawn from over 1 million Cirrus ATMs in 120 countries worldwide and 4,000 BDO Expressnet and Megalink ATMs locally. Shop and entertain using the personalized identification number (PIN) or signing for transactions with over 10,000 BDO and EN-EPS (Express Payment System) merchants here in the Philippines and at over millions of Maestro and MasterCard Electronic merchant locations worldwide.

Shown during the launch ceremony were (from left) BDO's branch banking group head Jaime C. Yu, BDO president Nestor V. Tan, MasterCard International senior country manager Poch Villa-Real, and BDO's transaction banking group head Ismael G. Estela Jr.

NEWEST MONGOLIAN QUICKSTOP AT SM SAN LAZARO

Mongolian Quickstop opened its 7th outlet Oct. 25, at the third level of SM San Lazaro. As the newest outlet, MQS San Lazaro is now open to serve the growing number of adventurous, choosy and health conscious mall goers and promises to offer great tasting, healthy meals at reasonable prices. So visit Mongolian Quickstop San Lazaro and discover the goodness of eat-all-you-can Mongolian food plus the numerous food combinations you can prepare. For catering and other inquiries, call 850-4226.





Take Your IXUS Pick

THE Christmas season is a mine of golden memories. As precious as gems uncovered from earth, these moments must be captured and preserved the IXUS way.

Canon Digital IXUS has recently launched three new stylish digital cameras that are perfect for taking vibrant snapshots this Christmas-the Digital IXUS i Zoom, IXUS 55, and the IXUS 750.

Digital IXUS I Zoom

For the fashion savvy who love it slim, compact, and colorful, the five megapixel IXUS i Zoom is the must-have digital camera. Available Cranberry Red, Ultra Violet, Sahara Brown, and Jet Black, the Canon Digital IXUS i Zoom complements any individual's unique personality and style.

Sleek enough to be tucked inside a clutch while shopping for gifts or even slipped in tight designer jeans while bar-hopping, the IXUS I Zoom is also packed with five megapixels, 2.4x optical zoom, and 7x combined digital zoom. No-fuss fashion, if you must.

Digital IXUS 55

The IXUS 55 features a dazzling sunburst finish-a first for Canon digital cameras. It was designed with an ultra high refractive (UA) aspherical lens and uses an ultra-thin battery to keep the body sleek and slender.

With 5.0-megapixels, 3x optical zoom and 12x combined digital zoom, the IXUS 55 is ideal for capturing sharp images, from hilarious Christmas parlor games, fireworks display, to souvenir family shots during noche buena. Print these golden memories even up to A3 size and you'd still get clear and vibrant details.

Digital IXUS 750

Embracing the Perpetual Curve Design and imbued with an air of power and sophistication is the commanding IXUS 750. With seven megapixels, 3x optical zoom and 12x combined digital zoom, it is crafted for the successful professional seeking optimum performance in a compact package.

Available in Satin Beige and Silver Grey, the IXUS 750 also gives elegant color variations.

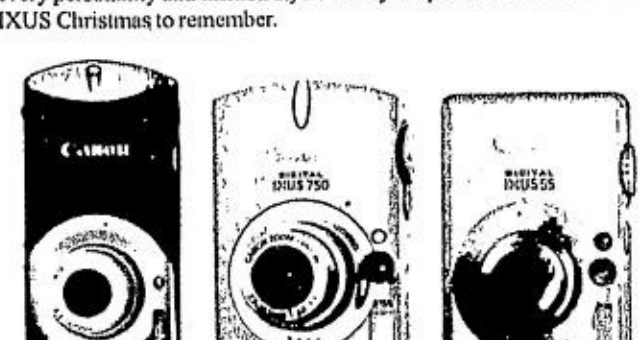
The IXUS 55 and 750 boast of a 2.5-inch color LCD monitor with wide viewing angle, making it easier for several people to enjoy viewing photographs together. The ultra-efficient backlight requires less energy while generating high brightness. When lighting conditions make viewing difficult, the Quick-Bright function increases brightness automatically. Pretty smart, isn't it?

Syle and substance

Canon's second generation DIGIC II imaging processor is integrated into all these Digital IXUS cameras. DIGIC II accelerates processing speeds, improves autofocus precision, and enhances color reproduction.

These IXUS cameras can also be connected to any Pictbrige-compatible printer for immediate printouts. Connect it to any Canon Selphy Photo Developer and develop the good times in just 58 seconds! Selphy photos are scratch-proof and water-proof-the perfect holiday tokens.

Canon's line of Digital IXUS cameras provides a host of choices to suit every personality and fashion style. Take your pick and make it a colorful IXUS Christmas to remember.



ADVT

Premium Lease from BMW:
A Strategic Investment in Sheer Driving Pleasure

BMW PHILIPPINES HAS SUCCESSFULLY INTRODUCED the youngest and widest model range in the premium segment—cars and motorcycles with different characters, yet all distinctly BMW. Simultaneously, the leading luxury carmaker continues to enhance the pleasure of BMW ownership through comprehensive sales and aftersales support, offered through its widespread network of authorized dealers in the country.

In meeting the demand and aspiration for its products, BMW has introduced pioneering ownership options, such as flexible financing packages, trade-in deals and preferential offers made possible through BMW Financial Services and its cooperation partners.

As a further service to its customers, BMW Philippines in cooperation with Bank of the Philippine Islands, now introduces a new innovation in ownership that addresses the mobility requirements of top professionals: Premium Lease.

The first-of-its-kind in both the automotive and banking industries, Premium Lease is distinguished by a number of main features:

- Minimal 10% Deposit;
- Operating Lease;
- 3-Year Lease Term;
- Registration included - (3 years)
- Insurance included - (3 years)
- With BMW's Service and Repair Inclusive - (3 years)
- Also available for Select individuals

These unique program features combine to deliver numerous benefits for corporations and entrepreneurs alike.

Cash Flow Benefits

At the very start of the lease program, the 10-percent deposit represents a relatively nominal cash outlay, thereby freeing funds that can be used for other business endeavors. In addition, the deposit is returned to the Lessee at the end of the lease term, or can be credited towards the deposit of a new lease. And since it has no annual mortgage registration costs and does not require documentary stamps, Premium Lease provides additional savings, as well.

As an operating lease, Premium Lease is off the balance sheet and can be recorded as a rent expense. This simplifies the accounting process by eliminating the need for companies to keep track of depreciation.

There are also tax benefits that can be derived from Premium Lease, since the VAT component of the lease payments is claimable as input tax credit. And depending on the tax position of company, the lease payments can even be 100-percent tax deductible.

Full Service Rate: Covering All Major Ownership Costs

With Premium Lease, all costs of ownership are easily to plan for and predict. All fees for Comprehensive Insurance Coverage and LTO Registration, for instance, are covered under the rental.

In addition, all scheduled maintenance and repair costs, excluding damage resulting from improper use and accidents, are already covered under BMW's pioneering Service and Repair Inclusive. To ensure that the vehicle performs at optimum levels, all services and repairs will be carried out at any Authorised BMW Dealer in the country, by BMW technicians using only genuine parts.

Flexibility and Convenience

Premium Lease offers flexibility as it does not bind the lessee with the vehicle. Upon expiration of the lease, the lessee can choose from a number of after-lease options:

1. Lessee can return the car after the lease term with no obligations (except for damages).
2. Lessee can extend the lease term (subject to approval).
3. Lessee has the option to acquire ownership of the car.

The lease is likewise fully transferable to another party during the term, or can be cancelled at reasonable pre-termination charges.

Premium Lease also comes with a Mobility Guarantee, thereby covering the cost of rental for a replacement car for up to 7 days in the event of prolonged repair. Easy payment options are also available as an added convenience. Customers can enjoy 24-hour access to their accounts and make payments via the Internet through BPI Express Online.

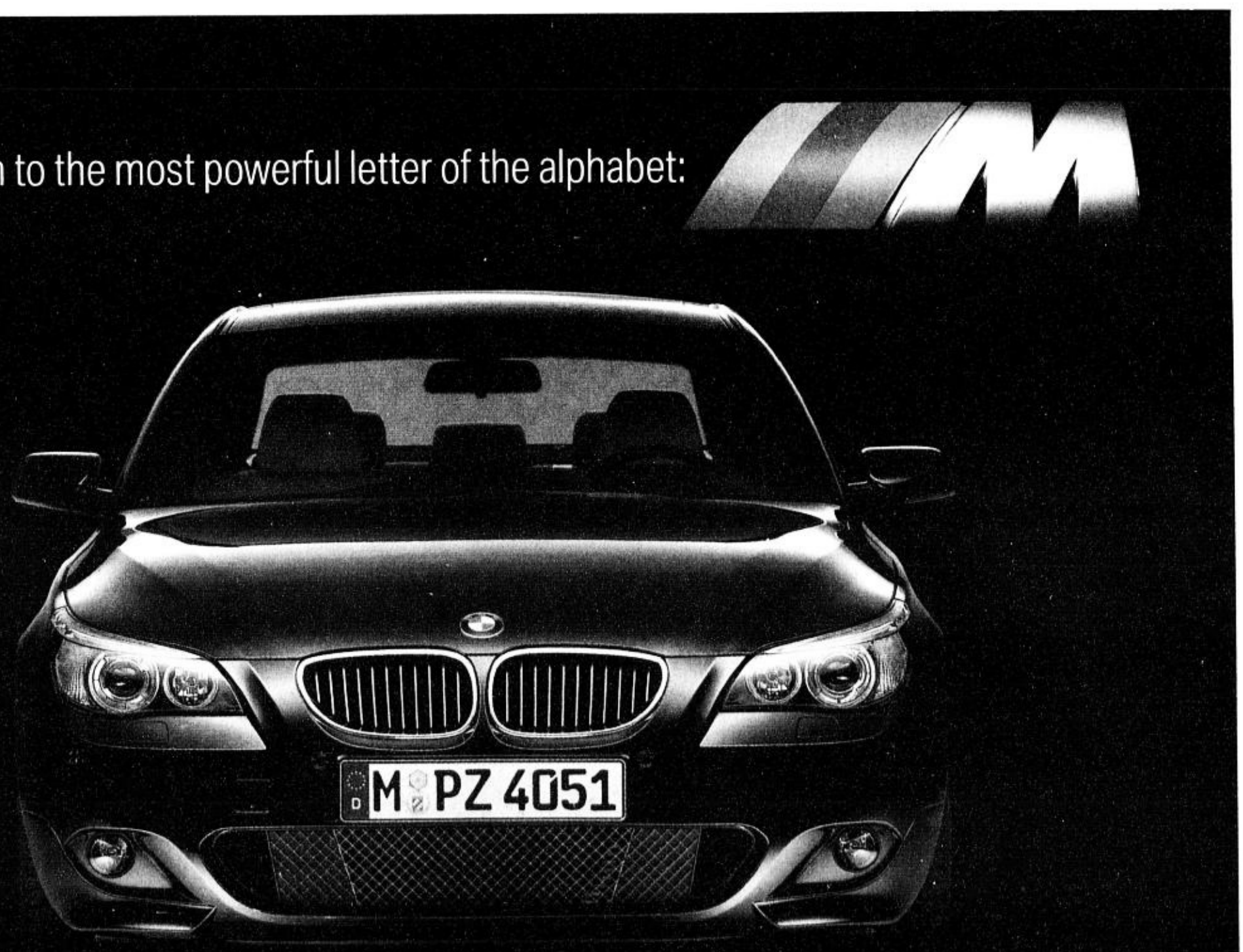
Premium Lease: Now available for companies and select individuals.

With the practicality, flexibility, and convenience of the new Premium Lease, the latest BMW cars now available to a broad range of executives and businessmen.

For corporations, BMW cars can serve as an exceptional motivational tool, while positively contributing to the financials of the company. For executives and entrepreneurs on the other hand, Premium Lease offers the pleasures of BMW ownership through a cost-inclusive package that covers all major ownership costs and concerns.

Comprehensive information on Premium Lease is now available at all authorized BMW dealers, namely Prestige Cars BMW (Makati), Autohaus BMW (Quezon City), Autozentrum BMW (Alabang), Premiere Cars BMW (Pampanga) and Performance BMW (Cebu).

An introduction to the most powerful letter of the alphabet:



The new BMW 5 Series M Sport. Performance in a Dynamic Business Suit.

BMW M signifies high performance and muscular aesthetic appeal – individual in appearance, sophisticated in technological substance.

• M Aerodynamic Outfit.

The new BMW 5 Series M Sport comes with a specially-engineered M Aerodynamic outfit complete with M front and rear aprons and M side skirts that emphasize the athletic character of the BMW 5 Series.

• High-Performance Alloy Wheels with RFT (Run Flat Tires).

18-inch Star Spoke cast aluminum wheels provide a more muscular look and enhanced road holding ability. Run Flat Tires provide increased safety and improved performance.

• Refined Power. Limited Availability.

The BMW 5 Series M Sport is equipped with an in-line six-cylinder engine that produces 231 hp and 300 Nm of torque. Available on the BMW 530i on a limited basis.

BMW Philippines
Sheer Driving Pleasure

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 6033 Series of 2005

Autohaus BMW 184 E. Rodriguez Jr. Avenue, Libis, Quezon City • Tel. (02) 638 0734 • Fax (02) 438 0419 • **Prestige Cars BMW** 2324 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City • Tel. (02) 892 8127 to 29 • Fax (02) 816 7325 • **Autozentrum BMW** Madrigal Business Park, Commerce Avenue, Alabang, Muntinlupa Tel. (02) 772 6021 to 24 • Fax (02) 772 6025 • **Premier Cars BMW** CGIC Building, San Fernando-Olongapo Highway, City of San Fernando, Pampanga • Tel. (045) 963 7777 • Fax (045) 963 3355 • **Performance Auto BMW** Magallanes St. cor. P. Burgos St., Cebu City • Tel. (032) 256 3491 • Fax (032) 256 3492

The BMW X5

The Trendsetter

The X5 features revolutionary BMW engine technology that successfully combines power and fuel economy

BMW ESTABLISHED A NEW CATEGORY in the premium segment with the introduction of the BMW X5 Sport Activity Vehicle. This revolutionary SAV concept offers a proactive solution to BMW enthusiasts seeking for a vehicle that combines the comfort features of a luxury vehicle and the practical aspects of an SUV.

A perennial leader in its category, the BMW X5 offers typical attributes that make BMW cars so desirable, such as superior driving dynamics, luxurious comfort, and advanced safety. On the other hand, this trendsetting BMW Sport Activity Vehicle also offers typical SUV elements that are so practical in this market, such as an intelligent all-wheel drive system, elevated ground clearance, a commanding seating position, and expanded passenger and luggage space.

The BMW X5 is therefore a trendsetter, since it offers a pioneering concept as a luxurious and comfortable on-road vehicle with excellent off-road capabilities. As such, the X5 represents a paradigm shift from SUVs that are primarily off-road vehicles that can be taken on the road.

xDrive Technology: Intelligence on four wheels.

The versatility of the BMW X5 is partly due to its intelligent four-wheel drive system: the innovative xDrive, which raises the benchmark in terms of road holding and agility among four-wheel drive vehicles.

The xDrive system allows for the instant distribution of drive power between two axles based on information obtained from the vehicle's wheel sensors and DSC stabilization system, thereby providing as much as 100% power to the axle or wheel where it is most needed. For instance, if a wheel loses traction on a slippery surface, the xDrive reacts in mere milliseconds by redistributing the drive forces to the wheels that have a grip.

With its unique capabilities, the new xDrive four-wheel drive system significantly minimizes under or oversteering. In addition to the clear increase in agility and driving enjoyment, xDrive also provides great safety benefits by providing excellent road holding characteristics for numerous driving situations such as moving down slippery surfaces, or climbing steep uphill slopes.

Powerful, efficient engines.

The X5 features revolutionary BMW engine technology that successfully combines power and fuel economy. The BMW X5 is presently available locally with two engine variants, namely the 3.0 liter diesel and the 3.0 liter petrol. X5 variants equipped with more powerful engines such as the 4.4 liter and the 4.8 liter petrol engines are also available by special order.

The X5 3.0 d is equipped with the revised in-line six-cylinder turbo diesel with the latest generation Common Rail direct injection that produces a maximum output of 218 bhp and 500 Nm of torque. With this power unit, the X5 3.0d can accelerate from 0 to 100 kph in 8.3 seconds and has a top speed of 210 kph. Despite these powerful performance features, the BMW X5 3.0d only consumes 8.6 liters of diesel per 100 km in the ECE cycle.

The X5 3.0i, on the other hand, features a BMW's 3.0-litre straight-six power unit that can produce a maximum of 231 bhp and 300 Nm of torque. The X5 3.0i can likewise accelerate from 0-100 kph in just 8.3 seconds and reach a top speed of 210 kph. Composite fuel consumption, in turn, is 12.7 liters/100 km.

Introducing the new X5 Sport Edition

As an added attraction to the X5 model range, BMW Philippines recently unveiled the new BMW X5 Sport Edition, fitted with a new aerodynamic outfit that further sharpens the confident profile of this trendsetting Sport Activity Vehicle.

The X5 Sport Edition features an enhanced front apron that projects an undeniably muscular statement, and together with the characteristic BMW kidney grille, supplies more air to the engine with its integrated and enlarged air intakes. The specially designed side skirts and wheel arch extensions, on the other hand, emphasize the length and width of the X5 for a more commanding presence. At the rear, the transparent glass lights harmonize perfectly with the rear apron for an even more assertive appearance.

The BMW X5: The Face of Confident Arrival.

With its superb product substance and trendsetting concept, the BMW X5 remains the benchmark for luxury, comfort and dynamism in its category. BMW enthusiasts can experience the Sheer Driving Pleasure of the BMW X5 and other BMW models and variants at all authorized BMW dealers, namely Prestige Cars BMW (Makati), Autohaus BMW (Quezon City), Autozentrum BMW (Alabang), Premiere Cars BMW (Pampanga) and Performance BMW (Cebu).

The new BMW 320i Executive Edition

Easy Access as an Exclusive Feature

THE NEW BMW 3 SERIES made its debut in the premium market as the luxury sport sedan that 'Embraces the Extremes'. This statement of character defines the 3 Series as a vehicle that combines seemingly contradictory characteristics such as increased power with fuel efficiency, enlarged dimensions of the body with reduced weight, and sporty handling with driving comfort.

BMW now introduces a new variant of the new BMW 3 Series, the BMW 320i Executive Edition. This variant is based on the successful 320i Executive and additionally features BMW Comfort Access and new attractive alloy wheels.

BMW's innovative Comfort Access system enables keyless entry and vehicle operating access. This system works through an ID transmitter, located in the specially designed BMW key, which instantly sends radio signals to the vehicle.

With Comfort Access, the vehicle doors automatically unlock upon recognizing the signal from the key transmitter. As such, the driver merely has to have the key within range of the sensors upon approaching the vehicle—in a pocket or handbag, for instance. This provides added safety and convenience, since the driver can open the doors without having to look for the key while parked in a dark area, under the rain, or perhaps while carrying baggage.

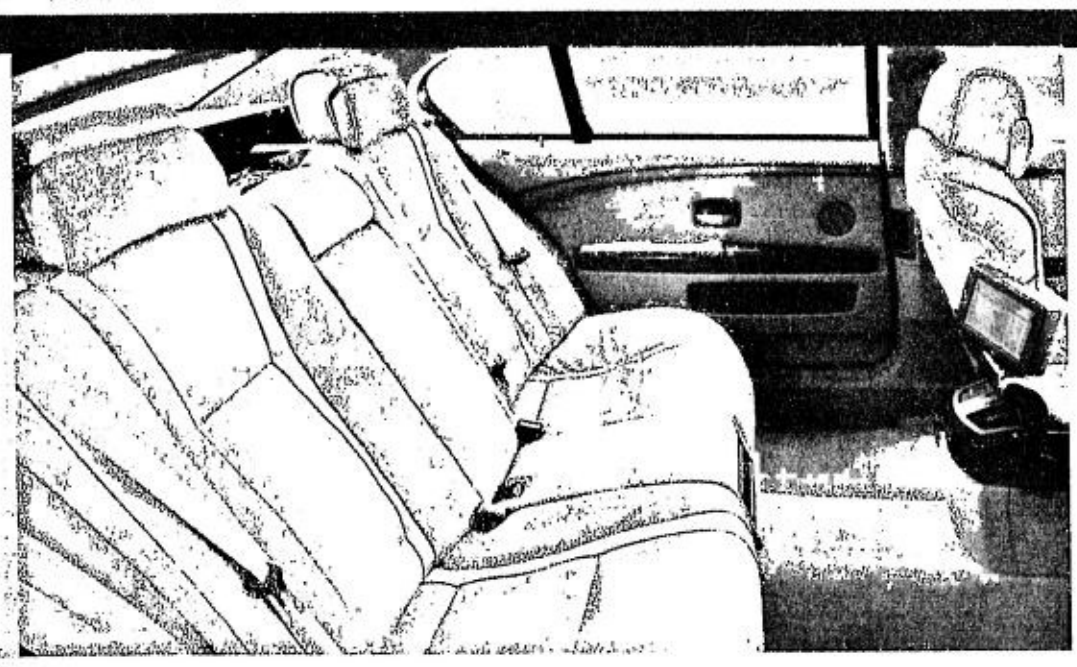
The intelligent system likewise integrates with BMW's Start-Stop Button first introduced in the BMW 7 Series. Given this, the driver can start the vehicle at the simple touch of a button, without having to insert the key in the ignition slot.

In addition to having the Comfort Access system, the new BMW 3 Series Executive Edition is also distinguished by having specially designed 17" alloy wheels that accentuate its sporty and elegant character.

Easy access to the new BMW 320i Executive Edition is now available at all authorized BMW dealers, namely Prestige Cars BMW (Makati), Autohaus BMW (Quezon City), Autozentrum BMW (Alabang), Premiere Cars BMW (Pampanga) and Performance BMW (Cebu).

The new BMW 7 Series:

The most comfortable luxury limousine in the world



The trendsetting iDrive concept, first featured in the BMW 7 Series, has been further developed for enhanced ease of use

AS THE FLAGSHIP OF THE EXPANSIVE AND exciting BMW model range, the new BMW 7 Series sets the benchmark in the luxury segment in terms of comfort and elegance.

Recently unveiled as a masterpiece in design and engineering in the renowned Ayala Museum, the new BMW 7 Series features benchmark-setting innovations on the chassis, suspension and car equipment, combined with a unique, authentic design.

As a result, the new BMW 7 Series today is the most comfortable luxury limousine in the world.

A story of worldwide success

The new 7 Series has been the global market leader in its class, and has become the most successful flagship in the history of BMW. This success is particularly apparent in established markets such as Germany and the Unites States, where the 7 Series is the best-selling luxury limousine in its segment.

The 7 Series has likewise established its success among the elite in Asia as the undisputed leader in markets such as China, Japan, and the Philippines. Coupled with similar market leadership in the Middle East, Eastern Europe, Oceania, and Africa, the current 7 Series has already more than doubled its sales volume compared with its predecessor.

The high-end Adaptive Drive Suspension: For a smooth and stable ride

The superior comfort of the new BMW 7 Series is due in part to the grand saloon's advanced Adaptive Drive function, which comes with a self-levelling axle for added stability. The Adaptive Drive control system seamlessly intergrates two unique features, namely:

- BMW's Dynamic Drive, which filters out bumps on unsmooth roads, while suppressing body sway and roll in tight bends; and
- BMW's Electronic Damper Control system (EDC-C), which continuously adjusts the dampers infinitely to various road, driving and load conditions to offer outstanding driving dynamics and maximum motoring comfort.

Interior of the new BMW 7 Series: Fully equipped for comfort in every respect

With the stability and comfort offered by the Adaptive Drive Suspension, front and rear seat passengers can enjoy the luxurious interior of the car, either as a mobile office or as a haven from the daily grind of work.

The long-wheelbase of the new 7 Series also offers a relaxed atmoshere in every detail. The extremely generous interior space is complemented by trendsetting technological features such as fully adjustable electronic rear seats, as well as electric sunblinds for rear and side rear windows.

BMW's revolutionary iDrive control concept — First introduced in the BMW 7 Series in 2001.

The trendsetting iDrive concept, first featured in the BMW 7 Series, has been further developed for enhanced ease of use. A menu button combined with optimized guidance in the Control Display are essential elements of the updated iDrive system. Rear passengers can also access various comfort, information and entertainment functions, through the additional iDrive Controller and monitor located ergonomically in the rear area.

The entertainment system of the new 7 Series includes a TV receiver and a CD changer with MP3, VCD and DVD functions, to contribute to a more pleasurable mobile experience for rear passengers. (Video images are automatically blackened on the front screen for safety reasons while the car is in motion, with only the sound being transmitted.)

Refinement in design: Unmistakable presence and elegance.

The outstanding performance of the new

THE MOST COMFORTABLE/4

The new BMW 3 Series

www.bmw.com.ph

Sheer Driving Pleasure

So responsive, it reacts to your very presence.

3

The new BMW 320i Executive Edition with Comfort Access.

• Convenient Keyless Operation

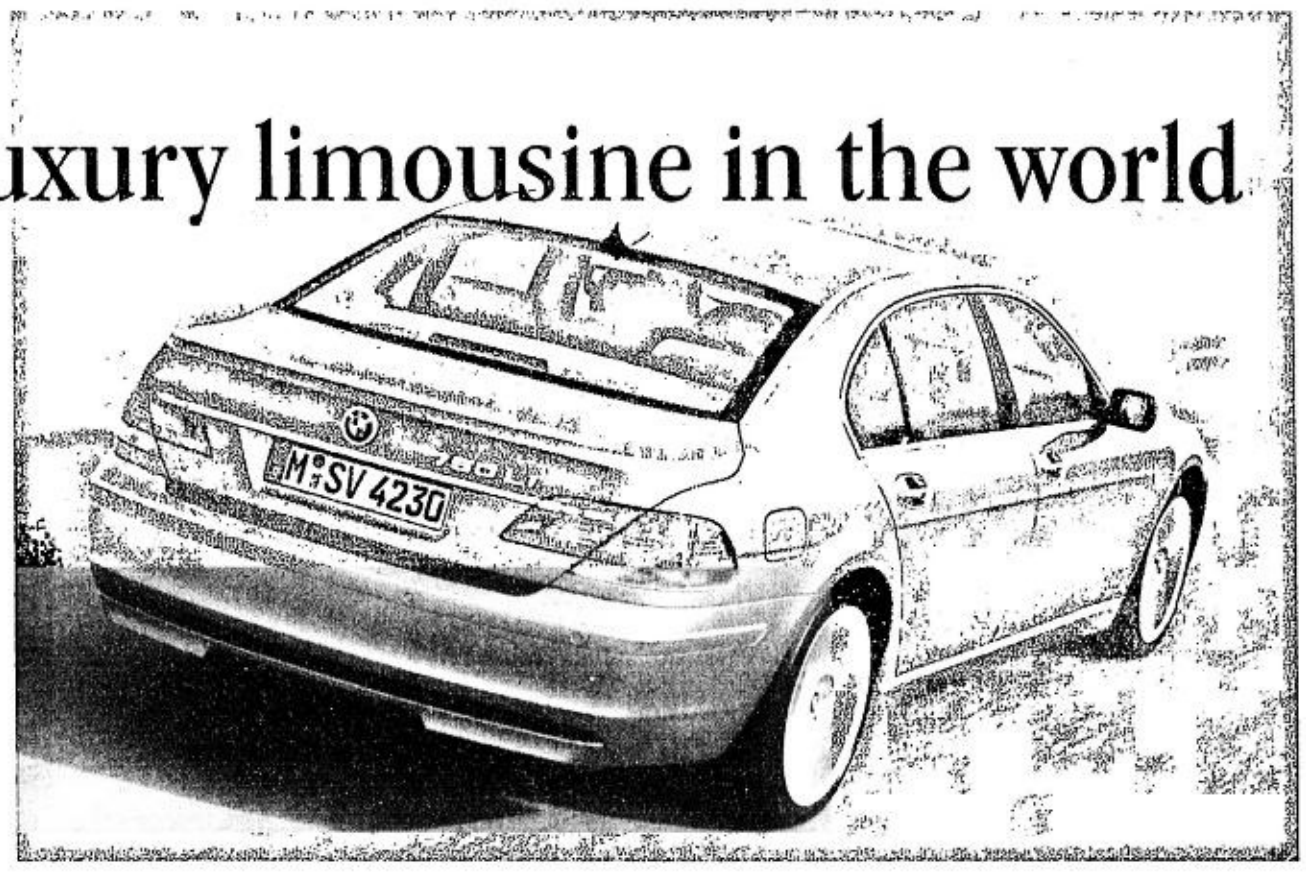
The intelligent Comfort Access System automatically detects the remote car key, allowing the driver to lock and unlock the doors by simply approaching the car, and to start the engine using only the Start/Stop Button. No need to press the remote key buttons. No need to insert the car key.

• New Sporty Wheel Design • Luxurious Interior

The new BMW 320i Executive Edition - redefining the iconic sports sedan with new levels of convenience and luxury. Embracing the dynamic

The new BMW 7 Series:

The most comfortable luxury limousine in the world



From page 3

BMW 7 Series are appropriately reflected by its progressive European design consistent from all angles, particularly from the side view.

The side silhouette showcases a sharply outlined light contour along the side-sills to provide a distinguished, stretched out look. From the front, the 7 Series features the characteristic kidney grille and double headlights that underline the unmistakable BMW look. From the rear, the discreet diffuser optimizes the car's aerodynamics and gives the rear end an even more dynamic look.

In all, BMW's luxury performance saloon projects a powerful presence and clearly stands out on the road through its dynamic, elegant and unique appearance.

The new BMW 7 Series: Distinguished Arrival

In summary, the new BMW 7 Series is fully equipped with:

- Adaptive drive suspension for increased motoring comfort;
- Design refinements that remain consistent to the BMW design language;
- The innovative iDrive control system;
- As well as added technological features for comfort, entertainment, and safety.

The new BMW 7 Series continues to set the standard as the most comfortable luxury limousine in the world.

For the sheer pleasure of driving and being driven, the new BMW 7 Series is offered in two variants, namely the 730 Li (SRP Php 7.3 Million), and the 750 Li (SRP Php 10.3 Million). The top-of-the-line 12 cylinder 760 Li is offered only by special request.

BMW Arrivals

ORIGIN DRIVE STATUS

7 Series — DISTINGUISHED ARRIVAL
6 Series — GENTLEMANLY ARRIVAL
5 Series — EXECUTIVE ARRIVAL
3 Series — DYNAMIC ARRIVAL
1 Series — TRENDY ARRIVAL
X5 — CONFIDENT ARRIVAL
X3 — ATHLETIC ARRIVAL
Z4 — SPIRITED ARRIVAL

BMW. Distinction in the art of arrival.

Announcing the arrival of the latest BMW models – the youngest and widest model range available in the premium segment today.

Each is designed and engineered with advanced technology and innovative features that deliver Sheer Driving Pleasure.

Diverse characters. All distinctly BMW.

BMW Philippines

Sheer Driving Pleasure

Autohaus BMW 184 E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Libis, Quezon City Tel. (02) 638 0734 • Fax (02) 438 0419 • Prestige Cars BMW 2324 P. Tamo Ext., Makati City Tel. (02) 892 8127 to 29 • Fax (02) 816 7325 • Autozentrum BMW Madrigal Business Park, Commerce Ave., Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa Tel. (02) 772 6021 to 24 • Fax (02) 772 6025 • Premier Cars BMW CGIC Bldg., San Fernando-Olongapo Highway, City of San Fernando, Pampanga • Tel. (045) 963 7777 • Fax (045) 963 3355 • Performance Auto BMW Magallanes St. cor. P. Burgos St., Cebu City • Tel. (032) 256 3491 • Fax (032) 256 3492

For the sheer pleasure of driving and being driven, the new BMW 7 Series is offered in two variants, namely the 730 Li (SRP P7.3 million), and the 750 Li (SRP P 10.3 million). The top-of-the-line 12 cylinder 760 Li is offered only by special request

■ SUPER / C2
Pictorial of perennial Pinay KC at Louis Vuitton in Champs Elysee

■ METRO / A21
LTFRB to hike cab fare if taxis issue receipts by January

■ NEWS / A2
US troops seen to join fight vs Abu

■ WORLD / A10
Carbon dioxide levels highest in 650,000 years, says research study

Gloria rocks as peso rolls

By Doris C. Dumlao and Christine O. Avendaño

AS THE PESO HEADED toward even newer highs yesterday, a jubilant President Macapagal-Arroyo took time out to enjoy a rock concert in Alabang.

GLORIA/ A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

Saturday, November 26, 2005 ★★ 15 sections / Vol. 19 / No. 351 8

website: www.inq7.net

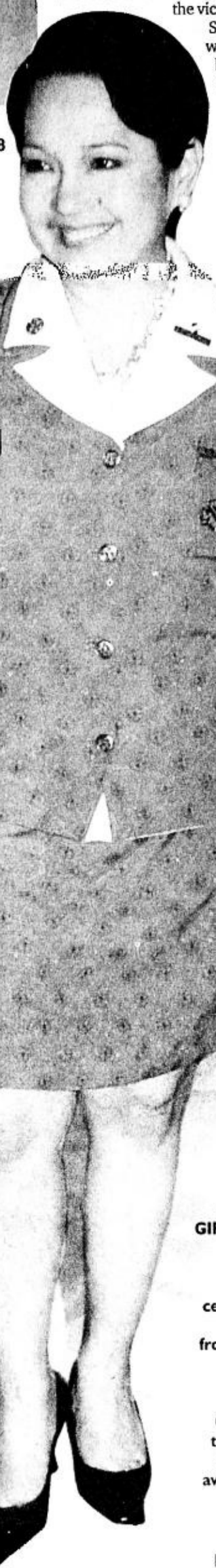
Protectors as victims: 16% of women cops battered

By Luige A. del Puerto

IT'S A CASE OF THE PROTECTOR BECOMING the victim.

Some 16 percent of women police officers have been physically abused by their part-

PROTECTORS/ A8



Miriam shut out of Supreme Court

Choices are Panganiban, Puno, Quisumbing

By Armand N. Nocum and Juliet Labog-Javellana

A HIGH-POWERED CONSTITUTIONAL BODY yesterday slammed the door on moves to push firebrand Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago as next Supreme Court Chief Justice.

Voting 6-2, the Judicial and Bar Council (JBC) quashed a bid by Santiago's supporters to extend the deadline for the submission of nominees to the post of Chief Justice so that the senator could be included on the list.

"If we grant the extension just to accommodate her and she is chosen, it might not look good for her and the judiciary. It might be perceived as a political accommodation," House Deputy Speaker and JBC member Simeon Datumanong told the INQUIRER before the Council started its meeting that resulted in the decisive vote.

The JBC recently narrowed down its choices for the post of Chief Justice to Associate Justices Artemio Panganiban, Reynato Puno and Leonardo Quisumbing.

Associate Justices Consuelo Ynares-Santiago and Angelina Sandoval-Guttierez, who could have qualified as nominees, being senior members of the court,

MIRIAM/ A4

Lawmakers lift ₱1-M bounty on Garci

By Michael Lim Ubac

LEST THEY BE ACCUSED OF INadvertently preventing Virgilio Garcillano from resurfacing, minority lawmakers yesterday decided to withdraw the P1-million bounty they had put on his head.

Deputy Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano said he and his colleagues in the House had agreed that "the most important thing" was for the former election commissioner to come forward and face questioning in Congress.

"Thus, his wife's request to lift the bounty is acceptable to us. The bounty was not meant to put his life in danger; in fact, it [was intended] to protect him and get him out in the open," Cayetano said.

The minority started raising the bounty some three months ago with P1. As much as P500,000 could have been raised by now, Cayetano said, adding:

"We are withdrawing the offer of bounty, but we are expecting [Garcillano] him to immediately surface. While we expect lies and tall tales, we believe the truth shall come out when he is cross-examined. We even encourage him to point to opposition leaders who had called him."

But Cayetano said Garcillano should not "trivialize" vital facts.

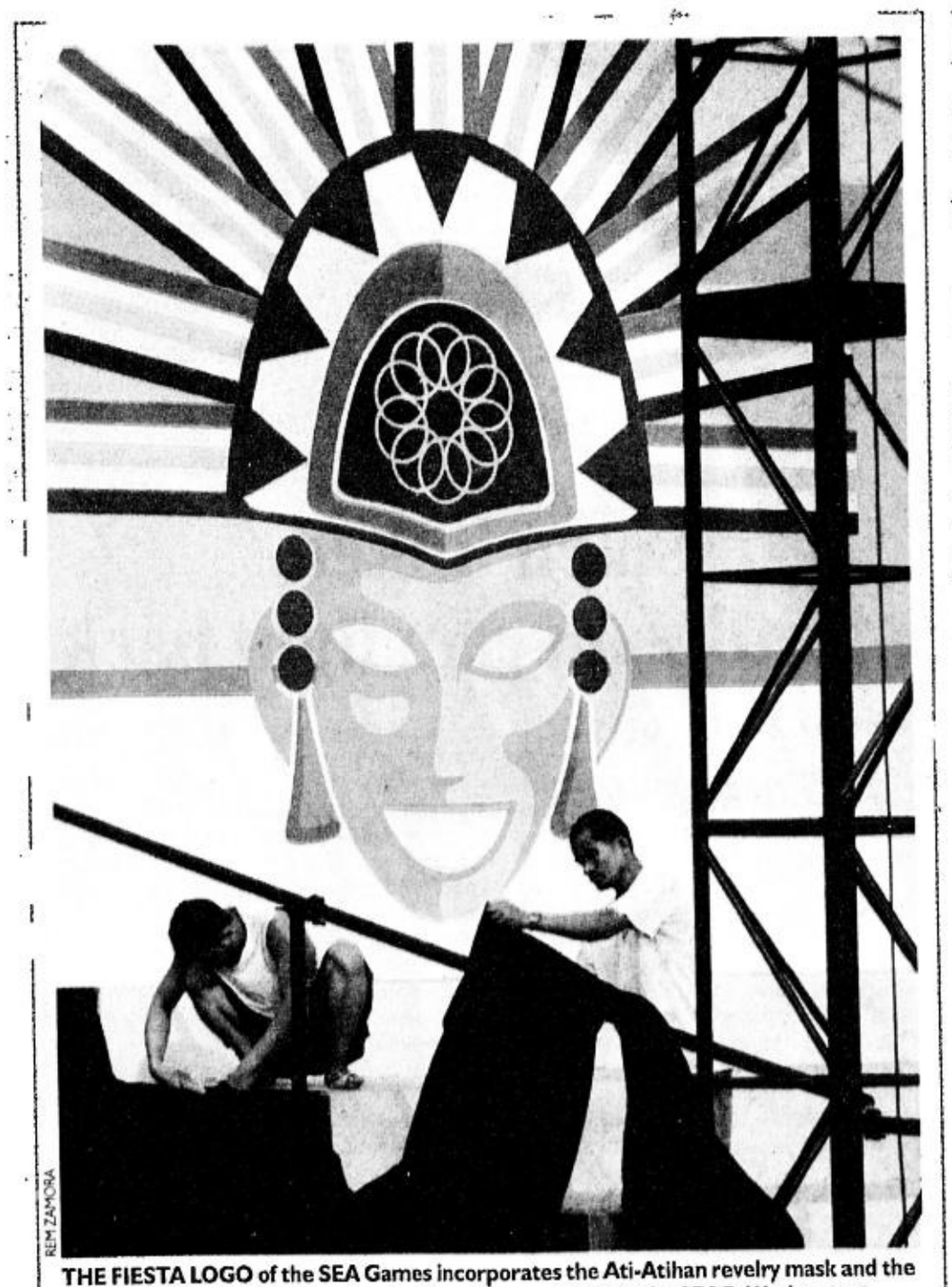
He said it was not the call in itself that was "unethical and illegal" but "the content of the conversation."

The crisis besetting the administration was triggered by the wiretapped conversations be-

LAWMAKERS/ A8

CHIEF SALUTES THE GIRL SCOUTS. President Arroyo awards at the Palace on Monday medals, pins and certificates to 203 senior and cadet Girl Scouts from all over the country, who successfully completed the requirements for the Chief Girl Scout Medal, the highest award a Girl Scout can receive. The awardees are recognized for their outstanding service to their community through projects of their choice.

LYN RILLON



THE FIESTA LOGO of the SEA Games incorporates the Ati-Atihan revelry mask and the nine rays of the sun representing the 11 nation-members in the SEAG. Workers put finishing touches at the Quirino Grandstand for the games that officially open tomorrow.

REM ZAMORA

No execution for Larrañaga while GMA is president

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO HAS ASsured a Spanish delegation that the death penalty imposed on Spanish-Filipino Francisco Juan "Paco" Larrañaga will not be carried out "while she is President" and House Speaker Jose de Venecia pledged "measures of grace" for the convicted rapist, according to the Spanish newspaper El Pais.

In a Nov. 21 report posted on its website, the newspaper said Ms Arroyo gave the assurance to Spanish Defense Minister Jose Bono when he called on her at Malacañang Palace during his official visit to the Philippines on Nov. 19-22.

"She told me that the death penalty will not be carried out while she is President," the newspaper reported Bono as telling Cadena SER, a Spanish radio network, after his meeting with Ms Arroyo at the Palace.

"From the same Palace, Jose Bono telephoned the parents of Larrañaga to convey to them the news, which in his opinion was 'very satisfactory'," El Pais reported. "The minister assured them that they should not fear any execution during Arroyo's term, and that she had promised to do everything within her reach to help their son."

The newspaper, the most widely circulated in Spain, said that Bono allowed a SER cameraman to record his conversation with Larrañaga's parents.

Larrañaga, the son of former Basque

NO EXECUTION/ A9

National Geographic series 'Tagalized' for school kids

By Jocelyn R. Uy

WITH FULL-BLOODED MEXIcan actors "speaking" in fluent Filipino in *telenovelas,* and Korean and Chinese soaps dubbed in the native tongue, the National Geographic Channel (NGC) is riding on the trend.

The educational cable channel, seeing how most Filipinos, especially the children, easily got hooked on "Tagalized" foreign TV shows or soap operas dubbed in Filipino, has decided to use the same approach in a program called "Sharing One Vision, Bringing Global Education to the Filipino Youth."

The program that enjoys the backing of the Department of Education will be implemented in the 30 public schools in Taguig City starting in January.

About 130 dubbed NGC special episodes, each running for

NATIONAL/ A8

RP off to robust start in SEAG

By Roy Luarca

LOCAL WATER POLO HAS RISEN FROM the depth and football has sprung to life.

Thus did the Philippine campaign kick up two days before the formal opening ceremonies of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games at the Rizal Park.

The Filipinos routed the Malaysians, 8-2, yesterday to clinch the silver medal behind perennial champion Singaporeans in water polo, the first event to be completed, at the Trace Aquatics Center in Los Baños, Laguna.

They wound up with four wins and a lone defeat, a 6-7 heartbreaker, inflicted by

RP OFF/ A9

Samar nature park worth $43B

By Blanche S. Rivera

IF MONEY TALKS, THEN SAMAR HAS a lot to say.

While the island remains one of the country's poorest regions, the rich biodiversity inside the 333,300-ha Samar Island Nature Park (SINP) has been valued by experts at $43.5 billion, more than twice the estimated value of the province's bauxite mineral deposits.

A valuation study funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in 2000 estimated the direct and indirect economic impact of the SINP's flora and fauna over 25 years at $43.5 billion, with a net projected value of $12.45 billion.

"This amount is much more than what can be expected from the estimated value of bauxite deposits in the area. More importantly, this value can be sustained, even increased, with improved management and protection as envisioned in SINP," the study said.

Environmentalists are now brandishing this study, which helped in clinching funding support for the Samar Island Biodiversity Project (SIBP), as a good reason to leave the area untouched by either mining and logging.

The Samar nature park has been in the news lately after it was revealed that the Department of Environment

SAMAR/ A8

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and occasional thunderstorms particularly over Eastern Visayas. Northern Luzon will have mostly cloudy skies with light rains. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers.

COMPILED BY JAMIE ALARCON, PDI RESEARCH/11/26/05 SOURCE PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

Text us your feedback: Inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

US troops seen in Sulu clashes

By Julie S. Alipala, *PDI Mindanao Bureau*
and Dona Z. Pazzibugan in Manila

ZAMBOANGA CITY – AMERICAN TROOPS HAVE reportedly joined Filipino soldiers in the military operations against Abu Sayyaf rebels in Sulu where about 15 suspected rebels were killed yesterday in a ground assault after a wave of air strikes on their mountain base.

Jolo Councilor Cocoy Tulawie said four US soldiers were sighted in barangays Bato-bato, Kadjatian and Timbangan in Indanan town by his men on Thursday afternoon.

Lt. Col. Mark Zimmer, public affairs officer of the Joint Special Operation Task Force Philippines, confirmed the presence of US soldiers in Sulu but denied they have joined the military operations.

"We are only there to conduct humanitarian mission," he said.

Tulawie denied reports that several American soldiers were killed in the clashes involving the Abu Sayyaf and the so-called Misuari Breakaway group.

"I have been asked by so many people if there is truth to the reported deaths of the Americans so I sent a staff there. My staff found out that there was no dead American soldier. But it was true they have joined the operations," he said.

Maj. Gen. Alexander Aleo, commander of Task Force Comet, said US Lt. Col. James Maxwell told him they were trying "to reach their troops in Barangay Bonbon in Patikul."

Aleo said several US troops went to Bonbon in Patikul to assess the project site for the construction of a pier.

"Since yesterday, we haven't heard a word from them," Aleo quoted Maxwell as saying.

The fighting in Indanan town and some parts of Panamao town has been going on for two weeks now.

Brig. Gen. Nehemias Pajarito said troops overran positions of the Abu Sayyaf rebels on Thursday around the perimeter of the well-entrenched rebel hideout on Mt. Tumatangis which straddles the boundaries of Parang, Maimbung, and Indanan towns.

Two Italian-made S-211 trainer jets fitted with rockets and bombs and two US-made OV-10B ground assault planes conducted air strikes on suspected rebel lairs on Thursday before the hour-long gunbattle.

"The enemy casualties were the result of a ground assault, not by the air strikes," Pajarito told reporters. "But the bombing runs helped soften the targets, destroying concrete bunkers and forcing the rebels to come out from their trenches."

Fifteen rebels had been killed, based on intercepted radio traffic and accounts by soldiers, but Pajarito said the toll could be much higher. He said six soldiers were wounded in the assault.

The military said six soldiers had been killed and 33 wounded since Nov. 11, when troops hunting Radullan Sahiron, the one-armed Abu Sayyaf chief on Jolo, clashed with a large group of militants on Jolo.

Sahiron is wanted for a series of high-profile kidnappings, including the abduction of 21 tourists and resort workers from Sipadan island in Malaysia in May 2000. He has a bounty of P5 million on his head.

Last week, an estimated 25 rebels were killed in gunbattles in another part of Indanan town, but only three bodies were found at the scene.

"The enemy is strong and well-entrenched so we have to use available firepower at our disposal to dislodge the enemy from their heavily fortified bunkers," Armed Forces Deputy Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Samuel Bagasin said in a news conference in Camp Aguinaldo yesterday. *With Reuters report*

Rape victim may sue for damages under VFA

By Volt Contreras

THE 22-YEAR-OLD GIRL ALLEGEDLY RAPED by six US servicemen in Subic can sue for damages under the RP-US Visiting Forces Agreement, a Palace official tasked with monitoring the VFA's enforcement said.

Undersecretary Zosimo Paredes said "there are no provisions in the VFA that grant immunity to US troops either from criminal or civil liabilities. The agreement allows the offended party to file an independent civil action for damages against any offending US personnel."

Paredes, executive director of the Presidential Commission on the VFA, stressed this provision in a press statement.

Lawyers consulted by the INQUIRER said an independent civil action would allow a complainant to still seek damages even after the criminal aspect of the case has resulted in an acquittal by technicality.

Also, conviction in a criminal case requires evidence of guilt "beyond reasonable doubt," while a civil suit may be granted after passing a lesser test of "preponderance of evidence."

Paredes made the statement in the wake of reports that a key witness to the alleged rape, Timoteo Soriano, has turned scarce after earlier claiming that he was coerced into stating "gang rape" in his sworn statement.

Neither Soriano nor his lawyer showed up for the Nov. 23 preliminary investigation at the Olongapo City prosecutors office.

The disclosure of Soriano, the driver of the hired van where the alleged rape took place, was seen weakening the victim's case, a view earlier shared by Paredes.

But Bayan Muna Rep. Liza Masa said that public action and the political will of the country's leaders are needed to ensure that the alleged rape victim would get justice.

Masa cited the conviction of three US servicemen stationed in Okinawa, Japan for the 1995 gang rape of a 12-year-old girl as an example of what the public's active involvement and the conviction of political leaders could accomplish in such cases. *With Leila B. Salaverria*

NAVAL Commander, Pete Wheeler eats lunch at the Cubi Bar Cafe at the Pensacola Naval Air Station in Pensacola, Florida. AP

Cubi Bar reopens in Pensacola

PENSACOLA, FLORIDA — THE GARISH, RED paisley carpeting is here, as are the red-leather bar stools and the shuffle board table. The names of the past are here, too, engraved in wood by the Filipino artists who, over the years, recorded the exploits and humor of some of the US Navy's most celebrated pilots.

It'd be easy to think the Cubi Bar was back at its home base in the Philippines. But this officers' club that served decades of squadrons is now at home serving military personnel and visitors at the Pensacola Naval Air Station.

Nearly a dozen years ago, the famed club was shut down by the eruption of nearby Mt. Pinatubo. It now welcomes many of the same pilots who passed through it on their way to and from deployments to the western Pacific.

On a recent afternoon, Apollo astronaut Gene Cernan, the last man to walk on the moon, was among a group of retired Navy and Marine pilots enjoying lunch at the cafe.

"There's a lot of naval history in this room. If these walls could talk, you would have one hell of a story," he said. "It might need some editing and censoring, but you'd have one hell of a story."

The Cubi Bar, which took its name from an acronym for Construction Unit Battalion One, closed after Mount Pinatubo erupted in 1991. When the United States later decided to pull troops from the Subic Bay, the bar's fate was sealed.

But a place so dear to so many of the Navy's top pilots could not be left behind.

Navy Capt. Robert Rasmussen, director of the National Museum of Naval Aviation and a former Blue Angel pilot, sent a letter to the Subic Bay commanding officer suggesting the bar be preserved. He learned the commanding officer already had sent a letter to the museum suggesting the same thing.

"Cubi Point was without a doubt the center of Naval aviation in the postwar years, especially during the Vietnam conflict," Rasmussen said.

So the bar was dismantled and packed into crates, along with a fair amount of volcanic ash. It arrived in Pensacola in 1992, and Rasmussen oversaw its reconstruction, down to its exact specifications. The Cubi Bar Cafe opened in 1996.

It features more than 3,000 colorful squadron plaques from the original club that flight squadrons would commission from local artists and present to the bar before returning home from a deployment.

The plaques, which list the names of individual squadron members, are often not plaques at all but ornate carvings of anything from birds to mermaids to chess pieces. They range from the size of a large poster to human-sized carvings of various creatures.

The ornate squadron carvings include an airplane with its fuel line attached to a beer bottle, an ace of spades, a white rabbit in a tuxedo, an Indian chief head and an armored knight. Some bear slogans such as "VS-21 Fighting Red Tails" and "The Last Real 'Harriers in WestPac."

But many of the original plaques aren't displayed in the rebuilt Cubi Bar: They were determined to be too risque for a family atmosphere, said bartender Donnalene Miller.

The new Cubi Bar Cafe doesn't serve the 15-cent beer-and-hot dog special available in the old bar, but it does offer San Miguel beer imported from the Philippines for $3 a bottle.

The relocated bar has a familiar feel despite its new location, said Cmdr. Jeremy Gillespie, a former P-3 Orion pilot who found his Patrol Squadron 22 plaque in the back wall of a dining room.

"You can close your eyes and hear Filipino artists imitating the Mamas and the Papas or Jimmy Buffet," he said.

Retired Col. Denis J. "Deej" Kiely, a Marine pilot, said those who lived through the Vietnam days occasionally return to find the names of friends who didn't make it back. The Cubi Bar was a good place to come during a hellish time, he said. *AP*

Congressmen linked to fertilizer scam fight back

By Philip C. Tubeza

FOUR ADMINISTRATION LAWMAKERS YESterday threatened to file libel and perjury cases against a Senate witness who accused them in an affidavit of receiving kickbacks from the controversial Department of Agriculture's (DA) fertilizer funds.

In a statement, Lakas-CMD Representatives Reylina Nicolas (Bulacan), Monico Puentevella (Bacolod City), Edgar Espinosa (Guimaras) and Janette Garin (Iloilo) denied any impropriety and lashed out at opposition senators for using the Senate inquiry into the disbursement of the funds "to smear House members as part of a systematic attack on allies of the President and on government institutions."

They also dared the senators to bare their own records on the P220-million Priority Development Assistance Funds (PDAF) issued to each senator and called on the Commission on Audit (CoA) and the Ombudsman to coordinate with the DA for a thorough investigation of the issue "without any tinge of partisan politics."

The opposition had claimed that the DA fertilizer funds were diverted to support President Macapagal-Arroyo's campaign during the May 2004 election.

Puentevella denied that he knew or had any dealings with Jose Barredo, the Senate witness who claimed he had personally met Puentevella to arrange P5 million in projects for his district under the DA's Farm Inputs and Implements Program (FIIP) last year.

In his affidavit, Barredo claimed he had been tasked to arrange the kickbacks for congressmen with DA projects in Western Visayas.

"Barredo's claim is an outright lie. I am filing a resolution in the House to invite him to a probe because I would like to meet him for the first time and confront him. I want to know who their mastermind is," Puentevella said.

Puentevella said that the fertilizers under the DA program "were all fully delivered to district recipients who dealt directly with the DA regional office without any involvement from my office."

Likewise, Nicolas, Espinosa and Garin, on behalf of her father-in-law former Rep. Oscar Garin, denied that they had any dealings with Barredo, or that they had received any kickback for the DA project allocations in their districts.

Meanwhile, Bukidnon Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri denied any wrongdoing in having P5 million worth of fertilizer funds for his district diverted to the construction of a 20-kilometer farm road.

"The road... now links the province to North Cotabato and has allowed produce from 10,000 hectares of farmland to be transported to market in vehicles in hours instead of days on horseback," Zubiri said.

"Between... bottled fertilizers my farmers would have no use for and a road they badly needed, the moral choice was clear," he said. "If that good thing is technical malversation, as (former solicitor general) Frank Chavez says, then I am happy to share a jail (cell) with (former Budget Secretary) Emy Boncodin, because she was the one who approved the change of project," he added.

SM appliance CENTER
our name is your guarantee

HSBC
The world's local bank

Libreng Appliances Araw-Araw

Your chance to win in our daily raffle draw!

Triple your chances of winning when you use your HSBC Credit Cards

Plus a chance to win one of
SONY 43" Projection TV
with Home Theater
every week or a

NISSAN FRONTIER TITANIUM 3

in the Grand Draw!

Color may vary from actual prize.

Sponsored by:
Universal Motors Corporation

Every P1,000 purchase entitles you to a raffle entry.
Promo runs now thru Jan. 15, 2006

Double your chances of winning with your SM Advantage Card

0% Interest
on 3*, 6* or 12*-month installment plan for a minimum purchase of P3,000.
*On selected items

Per DTI-NCR Permit No 2632 Series of 2005

SM CITY NORTH EDSA 9279335 • NORTH EDSA ANNEX 9276578 • NORTH EDSA BASEMENT 9272650 • SM MAKATI 8161178 • HARRISON PLAZA 5246239 • SM CUBAO 9111159 • SM MEGAMALL 6335075 • SM CENTERPOINT 7150534 • SM SOUTHMALL 8003512 • SM CITY BACOOR (046) 4170258 • SM CITY FAIRVIEW 4176795 • SM CITY CEBU (032) 2319132 • SM DELGADO (033) 3373102 • SM CITY MANILA 5238593 • SM CITY PAMPANGA (045) 9616991 • SUCAT 8297346 • SM CITY ILOILO (033) 320-6355 • SM CITY DAVAO (082) 2977064 • ROCKWELL 8981519 • PODIUM 6871215 • SM CITY BICUTAN 7779295 • SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO (088) 8592501 • SM CITY LUCENA (088) 8532501 • SM CITY DASMARIÑAS 432319 • ELIZABETH MALL (032)2566379 (032) 2563681 • BATANGAS 8867735 • SM CITY SAN LAZARO 7812773 • SM VALENZUELA 2919973 • SM MOLINO • 046-4743011-14

Gloria rocks as peso rolls

From page A1

Rock singer and guitarist Ramon "RJ" Jacinto, who headlined the concert late Thursday at the Insular Life Theater in Filinvest Alabang, noted that the economy had turned around with the phenomenal performance of the peso and told the President that she should "relax."

Which she did for the next two hours, but not before releasing a statement that could barely contain her glee at the continued strong surge of the peso.

"The peso continues to display its prowess against the other currencies in the region on the back of hardworking and patriotic Filipinos abroad driving alongside our domestic labor force," she said.

Ex-brother-in-law

Wearing her trademark favorite powder blue color, the President joined the packed crowd in rocking to the music of Jacinto, who is also a brother-in-law having once been married to a sister of First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said there was room for the peso to strengthen further, and saw it climbing to as high as 53 to the dollar, or even higher, in 2006 as strong remittance inflows and investment lifted the currency to a new six-month high of 54.15 against the US dollar yesterday.

"The indication is the peso can still improve," Tetangco told reporters on the sidelines of a Philippine Economic Society forum yesterday.

Tetangco said the peso's strong climb would likely be sustained even beyond the Christmas holidays, as the currency was benefiting not just from seasonal remittances but from a favorable fundamental and technical support.

Reform effort

Based on current developments, the BSP chief said the range for the new year could be a high of 53 and a low of 55 to the US dollar, although the government has maintained a range of 55 to 57 in the proposed 2006 budget.

"That is possible for as long as the reform effort is sustained. Renewed confidence will encourage more investment inflows," Tetangco said.

He said remittances from overseas workers, which have hit unprecedented levels this year, would also continue.

He said investor sentiment has continued to improve after this month's start of the expanded value-added tax to help the government cut its budget deficit and costs of borrowing.

The peso hit an intra-day high of 54.11 at the Philippine Dealing System yesterday before closing at 54.15, its strongest finish since May 9 when it ended at 54.13 to the US dollar.

The peso gained another 15 centavos from Thursday's finish of 54.30 to $1.

Jose Emmanuel Hilado, president of ACI Phil., the foreign exchange association, said the market was indeed heading toward the 53 level but not before a slight correction back to the high 54 levels in early 2006.

"Early next year, there will be a correction first because the market is oversold," Hilado said.

Hilado said the peso's rally was continuing because of the forthcoming long weekend break.

"At this time of year there are more inflows than outflows. A long weekend, in the remittance context, is a sure formula for the peso to appreciate," Hilado said.

Malacañang has declared Monday an official nonworking holiday.

Inspiration

In her statement, the President said the country's economic takeoff was "imminent" and urged Filipinos not to miss "this opportunity of a lifetime to win the big stakes for a strong nation."

She said the strong peso served as "an inspiration for all our people to break off from the shackles of (the) political turmoil and push the economic engine to propel our country to first-world status in 20 years."

Even as the peso has climbed to its highest level in six months, various groups continue to call for Ms Arroyo to step down over allegations that she stole the vote in 2004.

Tetangco said a planned increase in the VAT rate from 10 to 12 percent next February would further boost investor confidence.

"A stronger fiscal position will result in more inflows. It's not directly because of the [expanded] VAT that the peso is suddenly stronger. It goes through that channel of improved confidence in the Philippines ... investors come into the country and because of that you have more inflows and that helps the value of the exchange rate of the peso," he said.

The recent significant increases in OFW remittances have also helped a lot, he said.

28-percent growth

"We've had OFW remittances year in and year out and in most years we've seen an increase but this is the first time that we're seeing a 28-percent growth ... and this is boosting the value of the peso," Tetangco said.

"You also have portfolio investments at $2.1 billion from year to date and that's foreign exchange available to the system and that's also helping the peso," he said.

Portfolio investments, also known as "hot" money because of their volatile nature, largely went to the stock market and government securities.

BOP $2-B surplus

Due to robust inflows from OFWs and investments, the BSP expects a balance of payment surplus of about $2 billion by the end of 2005, exceeding the government's $853 million surplus target.

Relative to the size of the economy, the amount of OFW inflows is now equivalent to about 10.5 percent of gross domestic product.

Also, it now accounts for about 20 percent of the value of the country's exports of goods and services and about 1.8 times the value of net electronic exports.

OFW remittances have also exceeded the amount of gross inflows of foreign direct investment since the 1990s.

In the past two years, annual OFW inflows also approximated 45 percent of the country's gross international reserves.

Miriam shut out of Supreme Court

From page A1

have chosen to give way to the three.

The JBC has set Dec. 1 as the date for interviewing the three. This time, the proceedings will be open to the public.

Hours before the council meeting, Santiago told the INQUIRER that President Macapagal-Arroyo had told her that she preferred the Iloilo lawmaker to stay in the Senate to help her administration in its legislative agenda.

The eight-member JBC is chaired by Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., who is retiring on Dec. 20. It includes, among others, the justice secretary, members of Congress and the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, as well as a law professor.

The council had set Nov. 10 as the deadline for nominations. Defensor's nomination by the Young Lawyers Association of the Philippines came on Nov. 15.

The position of Chief Justice is the fifth highest in the land.

Integrity of process

Majority of the JBC members voiced reservation about an extension, specifically its effect on the integrity of the procedure for choosing Davide's successor.

Datumanong described the extension move as "precedent-setting."

"If we keep on extending the deadline, there would be no end to these extensions and the retirement of Justice Davide is fast approaching," he said.

Although he said he considered Santiago a qualified and "very good material" for the post, Datumanong said there was no denying that her nomination had come too late.

Last-minute bid?

A JBC member, who asked not to be identified, said Santiago spoke to him yesterday morning or before the decisive meeting, and asked that he support the move to extend the deadline.

Sen. Francisco Pangilinan told the media about the 6-2 vote, with him and Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez voting for the extension.

Justifying his vote, Pangilinan said he "would have wanted to have a wider choice" for the post.

"This is not actually about Mirriam. This is about having more choices so we would have the best person for the job," he said.

Choices narrowed down

Pangilinan said he was also being consistent with his earlier decision to grant an extension for nominations for the post of Ombudsman chief.

It's over

"I'd like to see how the nominees ... intend to lead the Supreme Court and the judiciary," Pangilinan said.

Santiago earlier confirmed to the INQUIRER that she had consented to her nomination by the YLAP. She said she had also told Ms Arroyo that she was interested in the post of Chief Justice "but not now," preferring to be nominated toward the end of her six-year term in the Senate in 2010.

Talking to reporters yesterday, Santiago quipped: "When you raise your questions to me henceforth you may call me Mrs. Chief Justice."

But she said "that is not going to happen."

Early offers

"Well, in the first place, I feel very old because young people now are never nominated for Chief Justice," she said.

"And in the second place my reaction was the same as it was maybe 10 or 15 years ago when it was first broached to me. It might be that there are some who wish to be rid of me in politics and it is safer to throw me in the judicial branch where I shall be completely sealed off from my beloved media," Santiago said.

During the present administration, Santiago said the position of Chief Justice was first raised to her during the selection for the administration senatorial candidates in 2004. She did not elaborate.

Pangilinan said there was no prohibition against Supreme Court outsiders being appointed Chief Justice but said this had never happened.

"There have been instances in the past wherein people from the private sector have been justices of the Supreme Court. But it has not happened in the past wherein the Chief Justice did not come from the Supreme Court," Pangilinan said. *With reports from Philip C. Tubeza and Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Law Deans Stage 2005 Conference in Boracay

The Annual Conference of the Philippine Association of Law Schools (PALS) unfolds today at the plush Boracay Regency Hotel in Boracay, Aklan with forty law school deans from all over the country in attendance. To be discussed are issues vital to legal education ranging from the activation of the Board of Legal Education, the continuing efforts at reform in the bar examinations, the shift to the Juris Doctor (J.D.) from the Bachelor of Laws program and the introduction of new subjects in the law curriculum.

Activities on Friday, November 25, include a dinner hosted by the provincial government of Aklan headed by Governor Carlito S. Marquez and Vice Governor Ronquillo C. Tolentino. Luncheon on November 26 is sponsored by Aklan Catholic College, the only law school in the vicinity, led by its energetic Dean, Alonzo R. Tinangan, the conference manager, who promised a unique and refreshing experience for the participants. The Saturday dinner is being hosted by Congressman Florencio T. Miraflores of the lone district of Aklan.

Founded in 1967, the PALS has been instrumental over the years in introducing far-reaching reforms in legal education. In 1989, the Department of Education Culture and Sports (DECS) utilized most of the proposals of the PALS when it came out with the Manual of Standards for Legal Education.

PALS also pushed for the creation of a Board of Legal Education to oversee the operation of law schools and the result was the Legal Education Reform Act (R.A. No. 7662) which was passed on December 23, 1993. The bill was sponsored in the Upper House by Senator Edgardo Angara and in the Lower House by Congressman Dante Tinga, now a Supreme Court Justice. It is expected that by early 2006, the members of the Board shall have been appointed. In 2003, after a new examination in mercantile law was ordered by the Supreme Court in the bar examinations, PALS was able to successfully convince the Court to cancel the exam considering the plight of provincial law students many of whom will be forced to scrounge around for funds to support another week of stay in Manila.

With this year's theme "PALS – Empowering legal Education," the association is expected to come up with other bold proposals that will not only serve to improve the quality of legal education but more importantly, assure the delivery of legal services to those who require it most and in places that have long been deprived of the much needed legal assistance and expertise.

Supreme Court of the Philippines
Manila

FROM THE CHAMBERS OF
Hilario G. Davide, Jr.
CHIEF JUSTICE

MESSAGE

Your Supreme Court is aware of the hapless detail that the legal profession is severely undermanned. Today, thirty one percent, more or less, of all trial courts remain vacant, while lawyers in the private sector bit their interests more toward management and business rather than conventional legal practice as we know it.

We are harangued by an exploding population. The consequence is that justice becomes more and more inaccessible. Indeed the reason clients turn to lawyers is that in their hands rests the command of the public force – to harness all of it if necessary– in order to minister the ennobling public and private interests. I have always believed that lawyers are indispensable ingredients in the administration of justice. But our profession is in distress. In these times legal educators face greater challenges. We have to realize that schools of law occupy the first line of defense against injustice. To me, the organic need for a legal profession that provides quality, ethical, accessible and cost-effective legal service to our people and whose members are willing and able to answer the call to public service makes up the catechism for every student of the law.

Under the auspices of the Philippine Association of Law Schools, the law schools convene today to define the issues that slice the national conscience and to meet these challenges. The theme of the conference – Empowering Legal Education – requires these schools to engage in the inevitable necessity of reforming legal education. They must promote legal education to alleviate the scarcity of legal services. They must crystallize their vision-missions not for any transient purpose, but to gloriously surrender their work to the loftiest purpose, molding a philosophy comprised of the eternal verities for the noblest profession which we call the law.

18 November 2005

HILARIO G. DAVIDE, JR.

Supreme Court of the Philippines
Manila

FROM THE CHAMBERS OF
Justice Artemio V. Panganiban
Chairman, Supreme Court Third Division
Chairman, House of Representatives
Electoral Tribunal

MESSAGE

I am honored to greet the Philippine Association of Law Schools (PALS) on its 38th Annual Convention. Legal education is a basic element needed in upgrading the intellectual and ethical standards not only of the legal profession, but also of the judiciary. The legal empowerment of PALS will enable it to reach a wide spectrum of our society and to reform the thrust and character of the law profession.

I wish PALS unmitigated success in its noble mission of elevating legal education and in promoting the rule of law in our country. I especially commend the association's scholarly president, Dean Andres D. Bautista, and the rest of its officers for their relentless advocacy and untiring effort to open to our youth the doors to the noblest profession in the world.

Mabuhay!

Justice ARTEMIO V. PANGANIBAN
Chairperson, Supreme Court Third Division
Chairperson, House of Representatives Electoral Tribunal

Supreme Court of the Philippines
Manila

FROM THE CHAMBERS OF
Reynato S. Puno
SENIOR ASSOCIATE JUSTICE

MESSAGE

Much have been said and written about the legal education in the Philippines, the problems besetting it and the proposals to address them. The issues usually range from the curricular content and methodology to the effectiveness of the professors and their teaching methods, the nature of bar examinations, the relevance of the pre-law courses, the absence of full-time professors, the character and competence of law students, and the objectives of law schools in advancing the constitutional policy of giving priority to education "to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote total human liberation and development."

It cannot be gainsaid that the Philippine Association of Law Schools (PALS) has, through the years, instituted continuing reforms to keep legal education abreast with the needs of modern society. After all, lawyers are in no small measure, responsible for shaping the future of our society. The continuing challenge, however, is how to create more impact as PALS moves on.

The theme of your 38th annual convention, PALS – empowering legal education, is very apt as PALS continues to strive and search for ways and means to uplift legal education in our country today. Led by its able president, Dean Andres D. Bautista, and its equally dedicated officers, PALS, I am confident, will soar to greater heights.

I thus encourage the PALS to further recreate and reengineer legal education to make it more effective, significant and meaningful. And, may the Good Lord bless and guide the PALS and its officers and members in its continuing quest to provide quality legal education.

REYNATO S. PUNO

Philippine Association of Law Schools

MESSAGE

In line with the efforts of law schools to impart relevant skills and inculcate the right values to its students, law deans from all over the country who comprise the Philippine Association of Law Schools will once again gather to reflect on the state of Philippine legal education and map out strategies to make it better. This year's convention theme of "Empowering Legal Education" underscores the need to strengthen our stakeholders-the law students, the law schools, the regulatory authorities and the community at large, as we all pursue our collective mission of producing responsible and capable members of the legal profession.

2005 has been an eventful year insofar as the political climate of the country is concerned. With the retirement of Chief Justice Hilario G. Davide in December, there will be a changing of the guard in our top judicial office as well. Amidst this dynamic and challenge filled environment, the country can continue to rely on the law schools to perform its mission and be proactive in providing objective legal commentaries aimed at promoting the rule of law in the country.

ANDRES D BAUTISTA
President

2005 MEMBERS OF THE BOARD
Dean Celso Lagro - Liceo de Cagayan
Dean Basari Mapupuno - Mindanao State University
Dean Corazon Valencia - University of San Carlos
Dean Myles Nicholas Bejar - Silliman University
Dean Zacharias Bedona - Central Philippines University
Dean Nelson Lo - University of Negros Occ.I-Recoletos
Dean Ermerson Aquende - Aquinas University
Dean Hernando Perez,Jr. - University of Batangas
Dean Andres Bautista - Far Eastern University
Dean Virgilio Jara - San Beda College
Dean Artemio Tuquero - MLQU

1967 FOUNDING MEMBERS
Dean Crispin D. Baizas - Far Eastern University
Dean Isagani A. Cruz - Lyceum of the Philippines
Dean Marcos Herras - Adamson University
Dean Feliciano Jover Ledesma - San Beda College
Dean Mariano M. Magsalin - Arellano University
Dean Pablo L. Meer - Manila Law College
Dean Jeremias Montemayor - Ateneo de Manila University
Dean Leoncio B. Monzon - Manuel L. Quezon University
Dean Jaime Nuevas - San Sebastian College
Dean Andres Narvasa - University of Santo Tomas
Dean Rodolfo Palma - University of the East
Dean Virgilio de los Santos - University of Manila

2005 OFFICERS
Dean Zacharias Bedona - Chairman
Dean Andres Bautista - President
Dean Myles Nicholas Bejar - Executive Vice President
Dean Artemio Tuquero - VP for Metro Manila
Dean Nelson Lo - VP for Visayas
Dean Basari Mapupuno - VP for Mindanao
Dean Hernando Perez, Jr. - Treasurer
Dean Mariano Magsalin, Jr. - Secretary-General

PAST PRESIDENTS
1967-1972 Dean Feliciano Jover Ledesma
1973-1975 Dean Gonzalo T. Santos
1976-1977 Dean Florenz Regalado
1978-1979 Dean Marcos Herras
1980-1981 Dean Jose Y. Feria
1982-1983 Dean Marcelo B. Fernan
1984-1985 Dean Fortunato Gupit, Jr.
1986-1987 Dean Eduardo de los Angeles
1988-1989 Dean Antonio H. Abad, Jr
1990-1991 Dean Pacifico A. Agabin
1992-1993 Dean Efrain B Trenas
1994-1995 Dean Ponciano D. Subido
1996-1997 Dean Norberto S. Gonzales
1998-1999 Dean Cynthia Roxas del Castillo
2000-2001 Dean Hernando B. Perez
2001-2002 Dean Romulo Borja
2003-2005 Dean Andres D. Bautista

RP needs P1.4B to ensure supply of drugs vs bird flu

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE PHILIPPINES WILL NEED around P1.4 billion to ensure a steady supply of antiflu medicines in the event that the much-feared bird flu pandemic hits the country, according to Health Secretary Francisco Duque III.

The amount is just enough to cover the needs of 2 percent of the population, or 1.6 million of the 80 million Filipinos, he said in a press conference yesterday.

But Duque said it was not wise to spend that amount solely for the purchase of medicines.

The Philippines is one of only three countries in Southeast Asia still free from the virus. The others are Singapore and Brunei.

"You won't just spend P1.4 billion there (in buying drugs) and blindly not consider the other needs," Duque told reporters. "We (should) calibrate the way we spend our limited resources as events unfold."

The Department of Agriculture, a key member of the National Avian Influenza Task Force along with the Department of Health, earlier proposed a P2.5-billion budget against bird flu for next year.

In the case of the DOH, Duque said officials were stretching its limited resources to cover other important areas in the strategy against bird flu such as the upgrading of hospitals and the purchase of protective gears.

Duque said the government would also spend a hefty amount to buy raw materials for the local production of Oseltamivir (Tamiflu).

Health Undersecretary Alexander Padilla and representatives from drug company Unilab recently went to India to shop for "star anise," a base ingredient for Oseltamivir.

Officials are preparing to manufacture its own version of the antiflu drug, following a certification from the Intellectual Property Rights Office that Tamiflu-maker Roche has no patent in the Philippines.

"Tamiflu has no patent here in the Philippines and essentially we can manufacture it here," Duque said.

"But our problem is the inadequacy of the raw materials."

Duque said the raw materials to be purchased from India were expected to cost more now that other countries were also seeking to locally manufacture Oseltamivir.

"There are indications that the cost will continue to escalate as many more countries have expressed their desire to get this product," he said.

Drug company Glaxo SmithKline has volunteered to keep a stock of Relenza, an antiflu inhaler, good for 10,000 cases, he said.

"It's going to be given for free in case of an outbreak," he said.

Sonny Siytangco; 66

RAMON JOHNSON "SONNY" Siytangco Jr. died on Friday, Nov. 25 in the loving embrace of his family.

He succumbed to pancreatic cancer seven months after he was diagnosed with the disease. He was 66.

Siytangco was a businessman, vice chair of the United Doctors Medical Center and the Southeast Asian College.

He is survived by his wife, Manila Bulletin columnist Lourdes "Deedee" Munson-Siytangco; children Sandee and Andrew Masigan, Junie and Cora, David and AJ; grandchildren Amanda Julia and Monchu.

The memorial wake for Sonny is at Mt.Carmel Church in New Manila, Quezon City.

The date of interment will be announced later.

"Thou shall not covet thy neighbors' goods"

Be the first to get the new arrivals at introductory prices
...and grab other selections for as much as 50% off!!

Visit Federal DESIGN EXPO ...and sin no more!

2250 Don Chino Roces Avenue, Near Corner EDSA, Makati City Tels. 840-4878 • 893-6589
ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A1-980 Series of 2005.

PHILIPS
sense and simplicity

Let PROGRESS run its course.
The only thing that should be left behind is our DIFFERENCES.

OVERCOME THE STARTING BLOCK

At the 23rd South East Asian Games, our countrymen should set aside internal disputes and take up the cudgels for international competition. Against Indonesians, Malaysians, and Thai's, there are no *probinsiyanos* or Manileños, no Christians or Muslims, and no ruling party or political opposition. There are only Filipinos in the running.

PLANT FEET ON THE GROUND

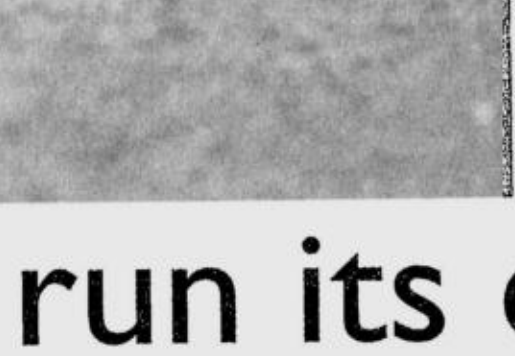
In the pursuit of excellence, we as a nation should keep realistic goals as milestones. In order to reach our aspired destination, we must consider our people's strengths and weaknesses. We must know who we are and where we came from in order to go places.

MIND FALSE STARTS

We ought to be mindful of how we pace ourselves as a race. To get things right, we start with discipline and discernment and proceed towards decisiveness and determination. If we get off on the wrong foot, our next steps will be a series of stumbling blocks before an eventual downfall.

STAND SHOULDER-TO-SHOULDER

Like the warrior Olympians of old, our youthful delegates must keep in mind that might is increased tenfold when moving as a team. Armed with expert coaching and extensive support, our national representatives can contend with the best of the best in Asia. Despite their diminutive size, our Filipino athletes will find themselves standing tall amongst the other races if we can get our act together.



GO THE DISTANCE

However, it is not enough to merely hold our own against the champions of other countries. With all our skills and resources, Filipinos should be able to outpace and lead the Pacific Rim pack. To win hands down, all it takes is unity in sports and teamwork in the national arena.

Philips supports the participants of the 23rd SEA Games.

NBI chief remains in deep coma, say doctors

By Margaux C. Ortiz

NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION Director Reynaldo Wycoco remains in a deep coma while doctors continue to support his vital organs until his brain functions could be assessed by more tests.

According to a medical bulletin issued at 3 p.m. yesterday, doctors said they would try to stabilize Wycoco's vital signs in the next 24 hours and if they succeed, they would proceed to do a CT scan and electroencephalogram (EEG).

"(Wycoco's) blood pressure and heart rate became unstable so we had to adjust his medications," Dr. Dante Morales, attending physician and cardiologist of the Manila Doctors Hospital, said in an interview with radio station dzBB yesterday.

"The patient's vital signs are currently controlled by medicines and intravenous fluid replacement," Morales said, adding that a ventilator was helping Wycoco breathe.

MDH neurologists and neurosurgeons described his condition as "still poor but still hopeful," according to the bulletin.

NBI officials had expressed extreme sadness over their director's condition.

"We are not used to seeing him in such a helpless state," an NBI official close to Wycoco said.

"He is usually in control of things with his dignified bearing," the official added.

Thank you for making us the

No.1 Manufacturer of Home Furnitures

and as a token of our appreciation... We are treating you to

Avail our Product AT COST for 1 week

idea FURNITURE QUEZON CITY BRANCH ONE
1042 Del Monte Ave., Quezon City
Tels.: 410-4536 / 37 / 50

idea FURNITURE PARAÑAQUE BRANCH TWO
Olive Plaza Complex, Ninoy Aquino., Parañaque, M.M.
Tels.: 820-8547 / 77

MILANO FURNITURE WORLD
1044 Del Monte Ave., Quezon City
Tels.: 410-1853 / 59 / 65

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, November 26, 2005
34th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Dn 7:15-27
Gospel: Luke 21:34-36

Jesus said to his disciples, "Look at the fig tree and all the trees. As soon as their buds sprout, you know that summer is already near. In the same way, as soon as you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly, I tell you, this generation will not pass away, until all this has happened: heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away."

Commentary

This is the last day of the liturgical year 2005. We stand turning from the past into the Advent of our God who comes again into our weary and war-torn world. We stand judged and knowing we are in desperate need of another year, another chance at believing in and living the Gospel. There will be an end to everything on the earth, even the earth itself. And there will be an end to our lives and our endeavors, nations and agendas. We must examine everything in the light of the coming of the Son of Man to judge history, judge all who ruled with power and each of us. We stand before the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory and cry out for justice in the world and mercy upon us all and bless our God who is holy: Father, Son and Spirit. Glory be to God forever and ever. Amen.

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: cci@claret.org; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)

Ex-Air Force general charged for falsifying age

By Nelson F. Flores

THE OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN YESTERday filed nine criminal cases against a retired Philippine Air Force officer before the Sandiganbayan for falsifying his records to make it appear that he was three years younger than his actual age in an apparent bid to have his military service extended.

Charged with nine counts of falsification was retired Maj. General Ralph Flores, who the Ombudsman noted, joined the Philippine Military Academy on April 1, 1966 and wrote in his information sheet that he was born in Lipa City, Batangas on March 30, 1946.

However, when Flores applied for promotion from brigadier general to major general in 2002, he submitted nine documents to the Commission on Appointments claiming that he was born on March 30, 1949.

Acting Deputy Special Prosecutor Humphrey Monteroso recommended that bail bond for the accused be set by the graft court at P24,000 for each case of alleged falsification, or a total of P216,000.

To support his claim that he was born in 1949, the Ombudsman claimed that Flores provided spurious documents, among them his declarations about his personal and family background, his annual income, his tax returns for the years 1999 to 2001, an NBI clearance, a summary of information and his medical and dental records.

"Evidence show that respondent Flores was indeed born on March 30, 1946 and not on March 30, 1949. His PMA cadet information sheet supports this fact. All the entries therein were in his own handwriting," the Ombudsman pointed out.

The prosecutor explained that Flores' PMA records showed "consistency and logic" as it was the policy of the academy that students be at least 20 years old in order to be admitted. He also said that the dates presented by Flores for his graduation from elementary and secondary schools in 1958 and 1961, respectively, tallied with the 1946 birth year.

Following the mandatory retirement age, Flores was supposed to have retired in April 1, 2002, counting from 1946. Instead, he left active service only in March 30, 2005.

Government prosecutors initially recommended that Flores be also charged with graft and four counts of perjury based on his statements of assets, liabilities and net worth. But the move was overruled by Deputy Ombudsman for the Military Orlando Casimiro and Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo.

Discover An All New Dream

ALL NEW CHANNELS

Discovery CHANNEL | Discovery Travel & Living | Animal Planet

ALL NEW OFFERS

New Free -B! 8900
Pre-pay Dream 890 for 10 months and get a Digital Satellite Receiver and Dish FREE!

Special Preload Offer
Load up as much credits of Dream 750 from September 1-30 and get the higher-valued Dream 890 package.

Also applies to Dream 350 and 550, for Dream 390 and 690, respectively.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4547 Series of 2005

ALL NEW DREAM ENTERTAINMENT PACKAGES

	Dream 190	Dream 390	Dream 690	Dream 890
LOCAL	• ABS-CBN 2 • NBN 4 • ABC 5 • GMA 7 • RPN 9 • IBC 13 • Studio 23 • Net 25	• ABS-CBN 2 • NBN 4 • ABC 5 • GMA 7 • RPN 9 • IBC 13 • Studio 23 • Net 25	• ABS-CBN 2 • NBN 4 • ABC 5 • GMA 7 • RPN 9 • IBC 13 • Studio 23 • Net 25	• ABS-CBN 2 • NBN 4 • ABC 5 • GMA 7 • RPN 9 • IBC 13 • Studio 23 • Net 25
MOVIES	• Pinoy Box Office • 21st Century Channel	• Pinoy Box Office • Hallmark Entertainment • 21st Century Channel	• HBO • Cinemax • Pinoy Box Office • Hallmark Entertainment • 21st Century Channel	• HBO • Cinemax • Pinoy Box Office • Star Movies • Hallmark Entertainment • Turner Classic Movies • 21st Century Channel
CARTOONS	• Nickelodeon	• Cartoon Network • Nickelodeon • Animax	• Cartoon Network • Disney Channel • Nickelodeon • Animax	• Cartoon Network • Disney Channel • Nickelodeon • Animax
NEWS	• CNN • BBC World	• CNN • BBC World	• CNN • BBC World	• CNN • BBC World • Fox News • Bloomberg • CNBC
SPORTS				• Sports Plus • ESPN • Star Sports
LEARNING	• Living Asia	• Discovery Channel • Living Asia	• Discovery Channel • Discovery Travel & Living • Living Asia	• Discovery Channel • National Geographic Channel • Animal Planet • Discovery Travel & Living • Living Asia
ADVENTURE		• AXN	• AXN	• AXN • Adventure One
VARIETY		• Star World	• Star World • ETC • ABC Asia Pacific	• Star World • ETC • ABC Asia Pacific
MUSIC	• MTV Philippines	• MTV Philippines	• MTV Philippines	• MTV Philippines • Channel V
FOREIGN				• Star Chinese Movies • NHK • TV5 • Formosa TV • Deutsche Welle
RELIGIOUS	• EWTN • TBN • JCTV	• EWTN • TBN • JCTV	• EWTN • TBN • JCTV	• EWTN • TBN • JCTV
PAY-PER-VIEW	• Dream Cinema 1&2	• Dream Cinema 1&2	• Dream Cinema 1&2	• Dream Cinema 1&2
OTHERS	• 4UTV • eTalk	• 4UTV • eTalk	• 4UTV • eTalk	• 4UTV • eTalk

DREAM SATELLITE TV

CLARO. WHEREVER!
Call 918-8000
Visit: www.dream.com.ph

Ex-employees sue ABS-CBN before NLRC

By Jerome Aning

FORMER REPORTERS AND EMPLOYEES OF the ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. have filed cases of illegal dismissal against the broadcast giant before National Labor Relations Commission and demanded that they be reinstated.

In their complaints filed in the last few three months, the retrenched employees accused the management of ABS-CBN of illegal termination and breach of contract.

ABS-CBN retrenched about 350 employees, including editors and veteran television and radio reporters, starting in August.

Willie Delgado Jr. and Izza Reniva-Cruz, former reporters of ABS-CBN's dzMM Radyo Patrol, and former desk editor of ABS-CBN TV News Joey Falcon were the latest to file their complaints before the NLRC.

Named respondents were ABS-CBN chief executive officer Eugenio Lopez Jr., president Luis Alejandro and vice president for Manila Radio Division Peter Musngi.

In the complaints they filed on Wednesday, they also demanded that the company reinstate them and pay them back wages and other benefits.

ABS-CBN, however, declined to comment on the labor cases.

News and current affairs chief Maria Ressa said the company has yet to receive copies of the complaints.

It would be recalled that when they were retrenched, the reporters and other employees accepted an early retirement package.

The fact that they signed the deal meant they had no objection to their being dismissed and that they were willing to be compensated monetarily, one ABS-CBN executive pointed out.

But the INQUIRER learned that cases filed by former ABS-CBN TV reporters Melo del Prado and Liezel Castro and news department administrative officer Bella Ong were progressing in favor of the complainants.

Because of this development, other dismissed reporters and employees are planning to file their own labor cases. One former reporter said about 50 are expected to file their complaints in the next few days.

Former ABS-CBN TV and radio reporters interviewed by the INQUIRER said they doubt the reason claimed by management in terminating them – that the company's profit was going down so cost-cutting measures had to be implemented.

They said that ABS-CBN, a publicly-listed company, has revealed that even if its revenues have been shrinking, the latter were still "in positive territory."

The former employees blamed company politics behind the termination. Redundancy was the common reason cited for the dismissal.

However, the INQUIRER was told that some of those retrenched, such as cameramen, were offered similar positions but on a contractual basis.

Greenpeace seeks rights probe

By Blanche S. Rivera

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVIST group Greenpeace yesterday filed a complaint before the Commission on Human Rights against the state-run Masinloc power plant whose guards beat up a Greenpeace volunteer during a protest against dirty energy sources in Zambales.

Greenpeace asked the CHR to investigate Masinloc coal plant's security personnel for the "brutal attack" on Greenpeace German volunteer Jens Loewe and four others, including a New Zealander and three Filipinos.

"Greenpeace respectfully submits that the disproportionate and very violent reaction to the peaceful protest was not only unwarranted and unjustified but also violative of law and human rights," Greenpeace counsel Theodore Te said in the four-page complaint letter submitted to CHR chair Purificacion Quisumbing yesterday.

The international advocacy group also asked the CHR to include in its inquiry members of the Philippine National Police in Masinloc town who detained 12 members of Greenpeace, including foreigners, without charges.

The volunteers had gone to the Masinloc police station to seek help for Loewe but were instead detained. Police did not file a charge against them until eight hours later, when they charged them with "other forms of trespassing."

Greenpeace staged a rally outside the coal-fired power plant operated by the National Power Corp. on Nov. 10, protesting the planned expansion of the plant, which supplies power to the entire Luzon, including Metro Manila.

During the protest, Loewe was confronted by the plant's private security and ended up being hit with a metal crow bar on his head. He was taken to the James Gordon hospital in Subic. Four others were injured after being pelted with stones.

In its complaint, Greenpeace said Masinloc's security personnel pointed guns at the volunteers and fired shots in the air to scare them away.

Greenpeace has condemned the Masinloc incident as the worst attack on the group in the Philippines.

"We are requesting the Commission's effective and immediate intervention on the matter by initiating an inquiry to ensure that those responsible for this deplorable attack on peaceful activists are taken to task for their actions," Greenpeace Southeast Asia campaign director Von Hernandez said in a statement.

Greenpeace said the Napocor's Masinloc plant displays the "very worst excesses" of the Philippine and Asian coal industry, which have been blamed for the pollution that causes climate change.

The group also criticized funding organizations like the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation for continuing to infuse funds into coal plants despite their commitments to support new and renewable energy sources.

"By protesting on site, we were not only exercising our rights to protest peacefully but also asserting our rights to live in a safe and healthy environment," Hernandez said.

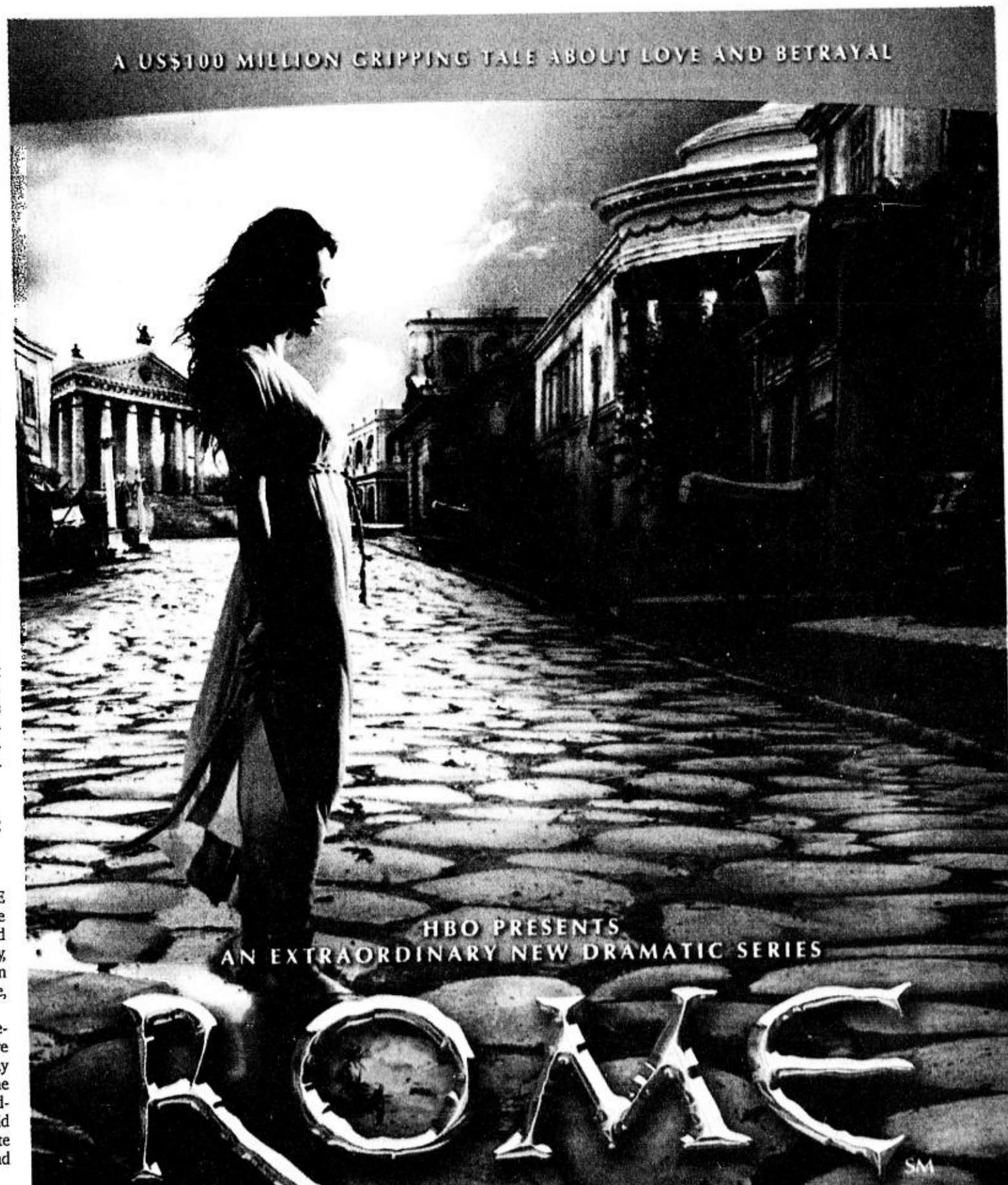
Mild quake hits South

A MODERATE QUAKE measuring 5.6 on the Richter scale rocked Mindanao yesterday, but caused no known casualties or damage, seismologists said.

A possible movement of the offshore Philippine fault may have triggered the quake that was recorded at 1:31 p.m., said the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology.

The epicenter was traced at sea, about 155 kms south of Gen. Santos City. The movement was felt on the southern coast of Mindanao, which reported no casualties or damage.

Earthquakes measuring between 5.5 and 6.0 on the Richter scale have the potential to inflict light damage to buildings and other structures. *AFP*



Lawmakers lift ₱1-M bounty on Garcillano

From page A1

tween President Macapagal-Arroyo and Garcillano, supposedly indicating election fraud in 2004.

Ms Arroyo has apologized for talking to the then election official at the height of the vote canvassing, but has denied wrongdoing.

'He will tell all'

Garcillano's wife, Grace, phoned the INQUIRER at 6 p.m. yesterday, and asked that it "tell the nation" that her husband was prepared to face his critics to put an end to the "lies" said against him.

"Tell them [my husband] will tell the truth, *tamaan na ang dapat tamaan* (no matter who gets hurt)," Grace said, speaking in a mixture of English and Filipino.

"Definitely [he's coming out]," she added. "He will tell all. *Sana naman mabigyan ng maganda* (I hope he will be given a good press)."

Grace said her husband was in good health: "He's OK. He's fine," she said. But she refused to reveal their whereabouts, saying only that they were "moving ... in Mindanao."

Arrest warrant

Rep. Marcelino Libanan (Lakas, Eastern Samar), a member of the joint House inquiry into the "Hello Garci" scandal, called on the Supreme Court to uphold the arrest warrant on Garcillano.

"I'm confident that the Supreme Court would recognize the inherent power of Congress to issue an arrest warrant for effective legislative inquiries," he said.

Libanan, vice chair of the House committee on justice, insisted that the warrant was issued in accordance with the rules and "properly endorsed and approved by members of the joint probe committees."

On Thursday, Garcillano's lawyer Eddie Tamondong petitioned the high court to issue a temporary restraining order that would bar the House from enforcing the arrest order issued on Aug. 3.

Tamondong, who claimed that he did not know Garcillano's current whereabouts, said he met with the latter somewhere in Mindanao last week.

He said Garcillano and his wife were "always on the move in order to protect themselves."

The lawyer also said the bounty put up by the House minority had put Garcillano in harm's way.

Libanan said it was not the fault of the House that Garcillano had failed to receive the subpoenas earlier issued by the committees conducting the inquiry.

Committee report

"The House exhausted all efforts to have [the subpoenas] served, but his relatives refused to accept them," he said.

He also said the warrant should not hinder Garcillano from surfacing.

Tamondong yesterday also asked the Supreme Court to stop the House from releasing the committee report on the inquiry into the "Hello Garci" tapes, saying the report was based on illegal grounds.

In a 36-page petition, Tamondong also asked the high court to stop the five committees that conducted the inquiry to make use of the wiretapped conversations in their report.

He asked that all references to the "illegally obtained wiretapped recordings" be stricken off the record of the proceedings and that these not be used "in any of the proceedings."

"To allow respondent committees to push through with the release of their committee report would be unfair and detrimental to [Garcillano], especially since he has since been repeatedly and frequently alluded to, mentioned and unjustly identified as the main character in the alleged wiretapped conversation," part of the petition read.

The respondents are the committees on public information, public order and safety, national defense and security, information and communications technology, and suffrage and electoral reforms.

Tamondong said the "Hello Garci" recordings had never been authenticated by the person who performed the wiretap.

"In fact, up to the present no one has claimed responsibility for the installation of the wiretap and the preparation of the said recording," he said, adding:

"There is no showing whatsoever that the person who supposedly recorded the said conversations had the authority to do so by the parties to the conversations. Thus, the recordings were acquired in palpable violation of RA 4200 (anti-wiretapping law) and is inadmissible in evidence and must be excluded from the committee report."

Best forum

In Malacañang's opinion, Congress is the best forum for Garcillano to make his testimony.

"Congress is the most interested in getting to the bottom of the 'Hello Garci' tapes. If we (Malacañang) were in a position to advise him, he should speak before Congress," Gabriel Claudio, Ms Arroyo's adviser on political affairs, told the INQUIRER.

Claudio refused to comment on whether the recent changes in the leadership of the five committees that conducted the inquiry were meant to favor Garcillano's appearance.

He insisted that Malacañang did not have a clue on what Garcillano was planning to disclose.

"We are keeping a safe distance away from Garcillano because we don't want to be accused of coddling him or scripting whatever statements he will make," Claudio said.

He said the only thing Malacañang was certain of was that Ms Arroyo did not conspire with Garcillano to commit fraud in the 2004 presidential election.

Claudio theorized that Garcillano had returned just to clear his name.

"It's only human nature to defend yourself after going through that ordeal," Claudio said.

'Predetermined scenario'

But opposition senators said the reorganization of key committees at the House was part of Malacañang-orchestrated moves to create a favorable atmosphere for Garcillano's planned testimony.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. expressed surprise at the ouster of Cavite Rep. Gilbert Remulla as chair of the investigating committees.

"The removal of Remulla is an indication that the House leadership wants to create a committee that will not play hard ball with Garcillano," Pimentel said in a phone interview.

"They're trying to set the stage where his appearance will strike a home run for [Ms Arroyo] and possibly, for Garcillano himself. It is pursuant to a long-planned, predetermined scenario," Pimentel said.

"Even the timing of the reorganization of the committees in the House is part of the whole scenario," Sen. Panfilo Lacson said, pointing out that the President's allies had to take over committee chairmanships to ensure Garcillano's smooth testimony.

"If they don't control the [committee chairs], they might encounter some hitches. They must have complete control of the situation," Lacson said.

Asked if he thought Ms Arroyo had a hand in the reorganization, the senator said: "Yes. She's the end-all and be-all here."

Clearance

The Armed Forces hopes to be cleared by Garcillano of allegations of complicity in the alleged election fraud in 2004.

Lt. Gen. Samuel Bagasin, AFP deputy chief of staff, said the military was eagerly waiting for how Garcillano would account for the "Hello Garci" tapes.

"Yes, I think everybody is looking forward to that—not only the [AFP] but the civilian sector as well," Bagasin said in a news conference in Camp Aguinaldo.

"Hopefully, we should be able to clear the [AFP]," he said.

The military was rocked with rumors of unrest among junior officials after at least four ranking officers were implicated in the alleged poll fraud.

Those implicated were Army chief Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon, Maj. Gen. Gabriel Habacon, retired Lt. Gen. Roy Kyamko and newly retired Brig. Gen. Francisco Gudani. *With reports from Armand N. Nocum, Gil Cabacungan Jr., TJ Burgonio and Dona Z. Pazzibugan*

Other players in 'Hello Garci' affair told to come forward too

By TJ Burgonio

TWO OTHER KEY PLAYERS in the "Hello Garci" scandal should come forward, Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said yesterday.

Biazon, chair of the Senate committee on national defense and security, wants Samuel Ong and T/Sgt. Vidal Doble to also say their piece at the chamber's inquiry into the wiretapping aspect of the scandal. The inquiry will be resumed on Dec. 8.

"[Former Election Commissioner Virgilio] Garcillano alone can't put a closure to the issue. We also want the statements of Ong and Doble," Biazon said in a phone interview.

The senator said he planned to invite Ong, former deputy director of the National Bureau of Investigation, and Doble, an agent of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces, to the inquiry.

He said later at a briefing that the testimonies of Ong and Doble could "provide significant contributions to the clarification of the issue raised by the Garci tapes."

"Questions like, for example, who conducted the wiretapping and how it was [done] could provide the truth that everybody is looking for," he added.

In June, Ong claimed that he had "the mother of all tapes" supposedly showing that President Macapagal-Arroyo stole the 2004 election.

The alleged mistress of Doble later claimed on radio that he had sold the tape to Ong for P2 million. But Doble, who was holed up at the San Carlos Seminary in Makati City with Ong and was subsequently "rescued" by the military, denied this.

Biazon said that since Garcillano had indicated through his wife Grace that he was surfacing so the "mother of all tapes" could be played for him, the testimonies of Ong and Doble should also be "processed through a proper public hearing."

"It would not be logical for that tape ... to [be] presented and played without the presence of Samuel Ong. These two are tied together," he said.

Biazon, however, said he could not send an invitation to the two men unless the Department of Justice lifts the arrest warrant it issued on Ong, or the executive department exempts Doble from Executive Order No. 464.

The order bars administration, police and military officials from appearing at congressional hearings without the President's approval.

Ong, who has been charged with inciting to sedition, is in hiding. Doble is in military custody.

National Geographic series 'Tagalized' ...

From page A1

30 minutes, will be made available to both elementary and high schools. But the city government will tour campuses as early as next month to present the pilot episode.

Taguig Mayor Freddie Tinga himself will conduct values education along with the NGC video presentation.

Grass roots

The program is aimed at bringing the NGC's highly educational and informative features and series to young Filipino viewers, especially those in the grass roots who are not reached by cable television, Roger Garcia, executive producer of the National Geographic Series, said at the program launch yesterday in Taguig.

The NGC, an internationally acclaimed information and educational program, has actually been airing a "Tagalized" series of the show on a local channel since October, Garcia said.

Still, he said, a substantial number of Filipino viewers had been deprived of the benefits of watching the program because of limited access to cable TV.

He said this was true not only in the countryside but also in Metro Manila.

Thus, the NGC thought of stepping down one level—and Taguig City became its first target.

"We brought this project first to Taguig because most of the children here don't have access to educational programs," Garcia said.

To stress his point, he asked who among the more than 50 R. Papa High School students at the launch were regular watchers of the show. Only four to six hands were raised.

Opportunity

Garcia said the program would be brought to other cities to benefit more young minds if it proves effective in Taguig.

Realizing an abundance of "decent educational materials" on television, Tinga told the INQUIRER that he immediately grabbed the opportunity when the NGC presented the program to him.

He said that compared with Korean "Chinovelas," the Filipino version of the NGC was a more benevolent mission.

Tinga pointed out that the program hoped to change children's take on the world: "They have been on a school-house-school routine. Through this, they will be updated on both historical and recent developments in the global spectrum."

He stressed that quality education would produce globally competitive students.

To show his dedication to the NGC program, the mayor signed a pledge of commitment together with Garcia and Richard Silaraks, NGC Asia vice president for marketing, Taguig's executive assistant for education Anna Umali, and Jesus Huenda, DepEd curriculum director, at yesterday's launch.

Samar nature park worth $43B

From page A1

and Natural Resources recently allowed a firm owned by Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile to resume logging in a 95,770-ha area inside the park.

It also emerged that House legislators have set aside 25,000 hectares from the 333,300-hectare nature park for bauxite mining exploration, in a bill for the SINP that has passed the committee level.

Though the SINP was created by presidential proclamation, congressional legislation declaring it a protected area would ensure stronger legal and administrative support for its protection and funding.

Samar has the only known bauxite deposits in the Philippines estimated to be worth $21 billion.

According to Niva Gonzales, a former project officer of the SIBP, the USAID study on Samar's rich biodiversity was what convinced the US development agency to fund the SIBP project.

"It was done primarily to compare the benefits the island would get from conservation and what it would get from competing land uses, particularly mining, since the area has been proclaimed a mineral reserve," she said.

Foreign funders

The $12.8-million SIBP is the biggest conservation project funded by the Global Environment Facility, an international funding organization that provides grants to developing countries for projects that benefit the global environment.

The USAID and the United Nations Development Program are the other funders of the project.

The valuation study took into account the economic benefits the people would get from water resources, trees and wood, ecotourism, prevention of soil erosion, sedimentation and the various uses of plants and animals in the park.

"Environmental protection such as reduction in soil erosion and sedimentation of rivers and coastal areas would benefit the downstream communities, including fishermen, not only in Samar island but also the neighboring communities of Leyte," the study said.

"Wood for home use, rattan and other non-wood forest products, food and medicines will benefit mainly the upland communities," it said.

The study has been used by project proponents to gain the support of the forest-dependent communities in the province for the campaign to have the 333,300-ha area of Samar declared as a nature park.

The campaign culminated in the first province-wide rally for the creation of the SINP on Aug. 8. Five days later, the SINP proclamation was signed by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Center of RP diversity

The Philippines is considered by international experts to be one of the world's richest areas of biodiversity—that is, the wealth of life forms found here, from the billions of plants, animals and microorganisms to the genes they contain—and Samar is the center of the country's rich biodiversity.

Protecting and maintaining a country's biodiversity is considered crucial because it is biodiversity that ensures human survival and the continuous cycle of life.

The Philippines is unfortunately also a world leader in endangered biodiversity. It is one of 25 identified biodiversity "hot spots" in the world. This means it is facing serious threats of species loss and habitat destruction.

Concern

A source in the environmental movement said the GEF has expressed concern that the logging concession inside the SINP would become a prelude to mining activities in the nature park as the government continues to aggressively promote a revitalized mining industry.

The GEF has been reviewing the conservation efforts of the countries in which it supports environmental projects and the Philippines is likely to face scrutiny because of the recent developments affecting the SINP, the source said.

Protectors as victims: 16% of women ...

From page A1

ners at one time or another during the last 10 years, according to a study by the Philippine National Police's Family, Juvenile and Gender Sensitivity Division (FJGSD).

When asked, "Have you experienced being physically battered by your husband or partner?" some 16 percent of 2,637 women said "yes," while 84 percent said "no."

The survey also showed that 20 female officers put up with physical abuse for 10 years; 34 women put up with it for five years; 36, for two years, and 55, for a year. But the actual figures of physically abused women officers could be higher, the survey said.

Ironic

"These are women police officers expected to uphold the law. It's ironic, but I think this reflects our society, our culture," FJGSD head Supt. Ildebrandi Usana told the INQUIRER yesterday.

Violence against women "crosses boundaries," Usana said, and women who are law enforcers or who carry guns were not necessarily immune to physical abuse.

The survey was conducted in September 2005 with 3,500 respondents—15 percent came from the national headquarters and the rest from regional police offices and national support units. Questionnaires had been sent to female officers, most of whom were assigned to the women's and children's concern desks (WCCDs).

The results were presented yesterday during the start of the "16-Day Campaign to Eliminate VAW (Violence Against Women)" in Camp Crame.

Some 7.7 percent of the 115,000-strong Philippine National Police are women. But none of them occupy senior posts in the force and many are confined to desk jobs and medical work.

Fear of humiliation

When the female officers were asked if they knew of any male officer committing domestic violence against his wife or female partner, 35 percent of respondents said "yes."

But just like the other battered women, the female officers refused to come out in the open.

According to the survey, battered women did not report their abusive partners because they were afraid of being humiliated, they believed their partners would no longer hurt them, and they wanted to avoid problems in the family if a case were filed in court.

Cycle of violence

Women were abused for a variety of reasons, with the survey naming jealousy, arguments over the husbands' vices and infidelity.

Various studies report on a cycle of violence: After the battery, the male partner apologizes, pursues the female partner, and everything is OK until the next battery and the cycle continues.

Civil Service Commission Chair Karina David, a women's rights advocate, told the crowd of mostly women that the problem of VAW was "cultural."

At a very young age, boys and girls are conditioned to think that they are not equal—this is the root of the problem, according to David. Women are brought up to believe they are subordinate to their husbands, and that husbands have the right to hurt their wives.

Round table

Even seating arrangements at a rectangular dinner table indicate inequality—men are seated at the head of the table, the wife and children to his left or right. David suggested that families use a round table instead.

"Many kinds of abuses stem from the belief that someone is lower in status than you," David said in Filipino.

She challenged the men to "first understand why there is inequality." Once the problem was understood, the manifestations—such as remarks or jokes which degrade women—could be identified.

"When you hear a joke [which is derogatory to women], challenge it," David said, adding that men should be encouraged to discuss the issue.

"Try to get other people to join you in doing something about it," she said. "The bottom line is no one—whether man, woman, child or elderly—has the right to hurt anyone."

Men speak out

David also urged officers, especially those handling cases involving women and children, to try to put themselves in the shoes of the victims and not to blame them if they withdraw charges.

A woman could drop a case against an abusive partner for many reasons, David said, chief of which was fear—of reprisal, of not being able to support the children, of being cut off from the family.

Others who spoke at the kick-off rights were: Dr. Victorino Lantion of Men's Responsibility in Gender and Development, based in Davao City, and Roderic Rama Poca of Men's Movement Opposed to Violence Against Women and Children, based in Cebu City.

The 16-day campaign to eliminate VAW is conducted by the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women (NCRFW). This year's theme is "Men Speak Out," with organizers encouraging men to take a more active role in the campaign against VAW.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

No execution for Larrañaga while GMA is president

From page A1

pelotari Manuel Francisco Larrañaga and Filipina Margarita Gonzalez, is one of several scions of affluent Cebu families who were convicted and sentenced to death for the 1997 rape and murder of the sisters Jacqueline, 23, and Marie Joy Chiong, 20, in Cebu City. Defense lawyers charged that the trial was marred by irregularities but the Supreme Court eventually upheld the conviction and upgraded their original sentence of life imprisonment to death by lethal injection.

Spain and other European governments and institutions, which are averse to the death penalty, have been pressuring the Philippine government to pardon Larrañaga, who is related to the Osmeña clan of Cebu.

The newspaper said House Speaker Jose de Venecia and other congressmen had also promised the Spanish visitors that they would intercede on behalf of the condemned mestizo.

"We raised the case during a meeting with a sizeable group from the Congress and De Venecia said that, within the bounds of parliament, they would support measures of grace for Larrañaga," the newspaper quoted Jaime Blanco, chair of the Spanish Senate's Defense Commission, as saying.

Before Bono's visit, Spanish parliamentarians had visited Manila to appeal for clemency.

Besides Larrañaga, the others convicted were Josman Aznar, Rowen Adlawan, Alberto Cano, Ariel Balansag and the brothers James Anthony and James Andrew Uy. James Andrew, a minor at the time of the crime, was sentenced to life in prison.

Records of the case show that the Chiong sisters were abducted in the evening of July 16, 1997, while waiting for their father to pick them up at the Ayala Center Cebu. Mary Joy's body was found two days later in a secluded ravine in Carcar town, south of Cebu City. Jacqueline's body was never found.

LARRAÑAGA is holder of Spanish passport.

SPANISH OFFICIAL CAME WITH URGENT REQUEST. President Arroyo received Spanish Defense Minister Jose Bono Martinez last week. LYN RILLON

Appeal to high court

The seven convicts appealed to the Supreme Court anew to reopen the case for oral arguments by the defense or refer the case to the Court of Appeals, but the high court, in a ruling last July, denied separate motions for reconsideration filed by five of the seven convicts.

In his motion, Larrañaga claimed he was in Quezon City when the Chiong sisters were abducted and murdered.

Last July, the victims' mother, Thelma Chiong, appealed to Larrañaga's mother to accept the Supreme Court's ruling and stop moves that could bring back bitter memories. She was apparently referring to efforts by the Larrañagas to enlist Spanish and European groups to put pressure on Philippine authorities.

Accept fate

"By this time, I hope she (Ms Larrañaga) will learn to accept this ... as I have accepted the fate of my daughters. I hope they will give peace to our family."

In a bizarre twist to the case, the judge who tried and convicted the seven youths was found dead in a hotel room in Cebu in October 1999. The authorities later ruled that it was a suicide and that no foul play was involved.

CROWN PRINCE of Brunei, Pengiran Muda Mahkota Haji Al-Muhtadee Billh and his wife Yang Termat Mulia Paduka arrive to participate in the SEA Games. ROGER MARGALLO

RP off to robust start in SEAG

From page A1

the Singaporeans, titlists since 1979 last Tuesday. Singapore wound up with a 5-0 slate.

Best finish

It was the Filipinos' best finish in water polo since they snared silvers in 1993 in Singapore and in 2001 in Brunei.

Two years ago in Vietnam, the Filipinos took third behind the Thais, whom they beat, 10-2, this time.

Apart from making waves at the pool, the Filipinos are also making big strides at the pitches.

Thousands of fans, unseen the last two decades, have been showing up in the men's football matches at the Panaad Stadium in Bacolod City and even in the women's competition at the Marikina Sports Center to support the retooled Filipino booters.

Bolstered by foreign-grown half-Filipinos, the men's team bested the Cambodians, 4-2, yesterday to stay in contention for a semifinals slot.

The Filipinos, traditional whipping boys in the sport, rebounded from the 1-0 defeat handed them by the heavily favored Thais on Wednesday.

Despite absorbing a 1-0 loss to Thailand in Marikina Thursday night, the Filipinas have also shown improvement and are deemed capable of advancing to the medal round.

Surprising performance

These surprising performances are providing faint indications that the Filipinos are within reach of a first-ever overall championship in the biennial meet, which involved 11 countries, nearly 8,000 delegates and around 17,000 police, military and support personnel.

The Filipinos got a bonus yesterday following the draw in tennis, which will start today at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center. World-ranked Fil-Ams Cecil Mamiit and Eric Taino assured themselves of at least a bronze medal after getting opening round byes.

And so did the pair of Riza Angela Zalameda, a recruit from the University of California in Los Angeles, and Denise Dy in the women's draw.

Sailing will also commence action today at the Subic Yacht Club in Zambales.

Formal opening

The Games' formal opening in Manila is expected to draw up to 300,000 people who, despite the absence of basketball, the country's top pastime, are eager to take part in the festivities.

A similar opening ceremony will be held simultaneously in Cebu City, which is hosting karatedo, judo, dancesport, road racing, pencak silat and sepak takraw.

RP's First Choice in Watches
Reader's Digest Philippines SUPERB BRAND 2005 Gold

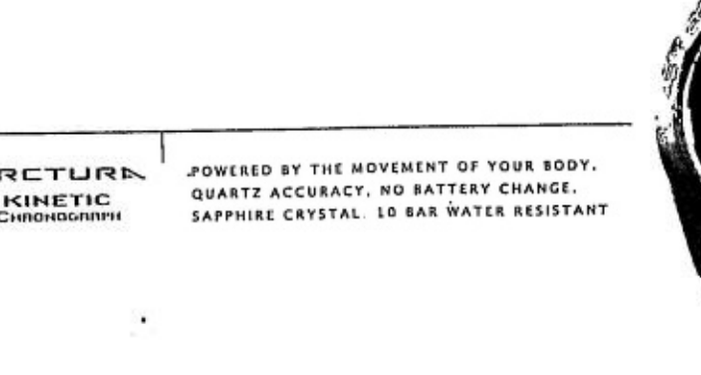
IT'S YOUR WATCH THAT
TELLS MOST ABOUT WHO YOU ARE.

ARCTURA KINETIC CHRONOGRAPH
POWERED BY THE MOVEMENT OF YOUR BODY.
QUARTZ ACCURACY. NO BATTERY CHANGE.
SAPPHIRE CRYSTAL. 10 BAR WATER RESISTANT

SEIKO
www.ssci.com.ph

Always ask for a warranty card
FREE CHECK-UP
Seiko Service Center Exclusive quality service w/ longest warranty

THE BEST SERVICE FOR SEIKO & ALBA WATCHES AT THESE SEIKO SERVICE CENTERS
• MAIN LABS.: 2310 Majalco Bldg., Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City Tel. (632) 886-6771 to 72
• MAKATI : G72 Glorietta 1, Ayala Center, Makati City Tel. (632) 892-8302 • MANILA :1990 NICFUR Bldg. cor. Taft & Quirino Ave., Malate, Manila Tel. (632) 523-8676 • QUEZON CITY : # 4 Lower Ground Floor, New Farmer's Plaza Araneta Center Cubao, Q. C. Tel. (632) 913-1908 • WB 206 SM City, North Ave. cor. EDSA Q.C. Tel. (632) 929-3097 • CAVITE : 008 SM City Bacoor, Tirona cor. Emilio Aguinaldo Hi-Way, Bacoor, Cavite Tel.(046) 970-4976 • CEBU : Lower Ground Flr., SM City North Reclamation Area, Cebu City Tel.: (032) 232- 0782 • J. Rodriguez Bldg., Osmeña Blvd., Cebu City Tel.(032) 253-6936



Listens to African music.
Collects toy figures. Walks the greyhound.
Retreats to a yoga hideaway.
Dream is not a dream.
Wears an Alba.

From SEIKO WATCH CORPORATION

ALBA

Available at any SEIKO Service Center and authorized Dealers nationwide

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

CO_2 levels highest in 650,000 years

Global warming finding is strong proof of man's interference in climate

PARIS—LEVELS OF CARBON dioxide, the principal gas that drives global warming, are now 27 percent higher than at any point in the last 650,000 years, according to research into Antarctic ice cores published on Thursday.

The study, adding powerfully to evidence of human interference in the climate system, appears in the run-up to a key conference on global warming which opens in Montreal next Monday.

The evidence comes from the world's deepest ice core, drilled at a site called Dome Concordia (Dome C) in East Antarctica by European scientists who battled blizzards and an average year-round temperature of minus 54 Celsius (minus 65 Fahrenheit) and made a thousand-kilometer trek to bring up supplies.

The core, extracted using a 10-centimeter-wide drill bit in three-meter sections, brought up ice that was deposited by snows up to 650,000 years ago, as determined by estimated layers of annual snowfall.

Analysis of carbon dioxide trapped in tiny bubbles in the ancient ice showed that at no point during this time frame did levels get anywhere close to today's CO_2 concentrations of around 380 parts per million (380 ppm).

CO_2 levels began to rise with the Industrial Revolution, when coal began to be burned in large quantities, and have surged in recent decades as more countries become industrialized and millions more cars take to the road.

As a result, billions of tons of CO_2 are now being released into the air each year from fossil fuels that previously were underground. In pre-industrial times, the CO_2 concentration was just 278 ppm.

Today's rising CO_2 concentrations are 27 percent higher than at the highest level seen over the 650,000-year time scale, according to the study, which appears in the weekly US journal Science.

The Dome C core, extracted by the 10-country European Project for Ice Coring in Antarctica (Epica), outstrips by 210,000 years the previous record-holder, drilled at an Antarctic site called Vostok.

"We have added another piece of information showing that the time scales on which humans have changed the composition of the atmosphere are extremely short compared to the natural time cycles of the climate system," said lead author Thomas Stocker of the University of Bern's Physics Institute in Switzerland.

Skeptics about man-made global warming point out that Earth has been through many periods of higher and lower temperatures in its history as a result of natural processes. *AFP*

China confirms 2nd bird flu death

BEIJING—CHINA MOVED THURSday to ease growing fears over bird flu after the nation's second confirmed human fatality, with media reporting a human vaccine awaiting clinical tests would be sold at rock-bottom prices.

The health ministry late Wednesday confirmed a 35-year-old peasant woman surnamed Xu had died from the H5N1 virus, 11 days after developing fever and pneumonia-like symptoms.

"The patient's conditions got worse, and all attempts to rescue her failed," the People's Daily said of the woman, a resident of Anhui province in east China. "She had been in contact with sick poultry."

The woman lived in Xiuning county, which is about 100 kilometers from the home of China's only other confirmed human bird flu fatality, a 24-year-old pregnant woman, who died this month.

A new outbreak of bird flu among poultry was also confirmed on Wednesday in the northwestern region of Xinjiang, bringing the total number of confirmed outbreaks in China to 25 this year.

On Nov. 15, more than 2,000 birds were found dead in Niuzhuangzi village in Miquan city in the Muslim-majority region and the virus was confirmed Wednesday as the H5N1 strain, the agriculture ministry said on its website.

Xinjiang, on China's border with Central Asia, has emerged as perhaps the part of the nation suffering the most severe impact from the current spate of bird flu outbreaks, which began little more than a month ago.

"Fears of person-to-person transmission grow with each new case of human or poultry infection," the state-controlled China Daily newspaper reported.

Against this backdrop, Sinovac Biotech Ltd., a Beijing-based company, is putting the final touches on a clinical trial plan for a new vaccine it has developed, according to the paper.

It might take a year before the "pandemic influenza vaccine" finishes its two-phase clinical trials, but will eventually be sold at a price cheaper than normal flu jabs, the paper said.

Various companies around the world are trying to develop a vaccine against H5N1. *AFP*

FIT FOR A KING
Balinese dancers perform for the king of Denpasar Ratu Ida Tjokorda IX during the king's inauguration ceremony in Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia, Nov. 25. The last similar inauguration rites were in 1929. AP

Iran defies world, plans to begin nuclear enrichment, envoys say

VIENNA—IRAN IS PUSHING ahead with plans to enrich uranium in defiance of international pressure to give up sensitive nuclear technology to ease fears it is seeking a nuclear bomb, diplomats and intelligence sources say.

Such plans could jeopardize a Russian attempt to head off a confrontation over Iran, through a compromise proposal under which Tehran would maintain a civilian nuclear program but transfer enrichment to Russia under a joint venture.

Enrichment is the most sensitive stage of the nuclear fuel cycle. It can be used to make fuel for bombs or power plants.

"I think they want to do it soon," a European diplomat told Reuters. "The million-dollar question is when."

Diplomats and intelligence officials, speaking on the sidelines of a meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) this week, said Iran was preparing to start enrichment at its underground plant in Natanz.

The United States and other Western countries say Natanz is at the heart of a covert nuclear weapons program, and have threatened to refer Iran to the UN Security Council for possible sanctions. Iran says its nuclear program is purely for generating electricity.

A 4-page confidential intelligence report given to Reuters cited a "senior Iranian foreign ministry source" as saying that on Oct. 24 the secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, Ali Larijani, called an emergency meeting of current and former members of Iran's nuclear negotiating team. *Reuters*

Children among 1 million drug users in Afghanistan

KABUL—ALMOST ONE MILLION people in Afghanistan take drugs, 7 percent of them children, according to results released Thursday from the first survey of narcotics use in the world's top opium-producing country.

The nationwide study by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Afghan government showed that 3.8 percent of the population consumed drugs, more than half of them taking hashish.

"My biggest personal concern is that 7 percent of all drug users are children ... that's very alarming," the UN agency's representative Doris Buddenberg told reporters.

One of the reasons was that opium—which can be used to make heroin—was used in some families to keep children quiet, Buddenberg said. Also, children were sometimes involved in drug production.

The survey found 170,000 adults, or 1.4 percent of the adult population, took often-addictive opium and heroin. This was within the range of addiction rates of neighboring countries, including Iran (2.8 percent) and Pakistan (0.8 percent), it said.

It suggested there were 920,000 drug users among Afghanistan's 26 million people. They included about 150,000 who took opium, 50,000 heroin, 520,000 hashish and 180,000 non-prescribed pharmaceuticals, with some people taking more than one drug.

Eighty percent were men and 13 percent women, the survey found.

Afghanistan has more than 100,000 hectares of land under opium poppy cultivation, often by destitute farmers. The crop makes up about 87 percent of the world's supply of opium, most of which is used to make heroin for Europe.

The survey found that many users, up to half in the case of heroin, said they had first taken drugs in refugee camps in Iran and Pakistan, while in certain villages opium use was high because it was the only medicine available.

The findings showed that drug use has "definitely" increased in Afghanistan, counter-narcotics ministry deputy director Mohammad Zafar said, adding that a survey of heroin users revealed 7,000 in Kabul in 2003 and 13,000 now. *AFP*

NEW HOLIDAY GET TOGETHER @ PARADIZOO!
CAMP SITE ORGANIC & FARM ANIMALS ANIMAL RIDES PICNIC PACKAGE
PICNIC ADVENTURE! RESIDENCE INN & PARADIZOO
ENTRANCE ONLY P49 ENTRANCE W/ FOOD P69
KIDS P49 P69
ADULTS P69 P99
"LEARN & GROW RICH"
PUT UP YOUR GOAT/OSTRICH/SHEEP/ POT BELLY/ETC. FARM - VISIT US!
Day Tour w/ the animals Horseback Riding Honey Bee Tour Camping Trekking Picnic Lunch Playground
REGULAR PRICE P100
SNEAK PREVIEW P49 PER PAX
AVAIL OUR TAGAYTAY & PARADIZOO PACKAGE P200 P99
NOTE: SHUTTLE SERVICE WILL BE AVAILABLE TO & FROM RESIDENCE INN TAGAYTAY
PARADIZOO. A few meters away going to Flower Farm CALL: (02) 898-3695; 899-9819; 895-7142, 899-9824; TXT: 0917-8351111; TAGAYTAY: (046) 860-2238; VISIT: www.residenceinnresorts.com

COPIERS Sales/ Rentals
RICOH • Canon • Olivetti • Savin
Also Available : LIQUID COPIERS
₱15,000. ONLY POWDER TYPE FT 3320, 15 CPM
BRAND NEW CANON iR1210 BEST FOR BUS. ₱ 39,950. ONLY
₱20,000. ONLY RECON RICOH FT 3813 BEST FOR BUSINESS
BRAND NEW CANON FC 290 FOR PERSONAL USE ₱15,000. ONLY
PARTS & SUPPLIES AVAILABLE FOR MOST COPIER BRANDS.
COPYTRADE®
Copytrade Bldg. 550 MF Jhocson St. Sampaloc, Manila (Beside Nat'l Univ.)
Tels. 749-8155 to 58
781-3472 • 749-8216
www.copytrade.com.ph
• RINGBINDERS / LAMINATORS CUTTERS/BLUEPRINT/RISO
• FAX MACHINES, ETC ACCEPT COPIER RENTALS FOR SHORT EVENTS
• BUY/TRADE-IN OLD COPIERS

THE UNIVERSITY OF MANILA UM
546 DR. MARIANO V. DE LOS SANTOS SR. STREET SAMPALOC, MANILA
SINCE 1913
Tel # 7355102 • 7355084 • 7355085 • 7355098 • 7355094
Fax # 7355089 • 339-0150
Website: www.univman.edu.ph E-Mail: um@univman.edu.ph
ADVANCED PRE-BAR REVIEW 2005-2006
REVIEW FEE: P 7,500 only
(Saturday & Sunday Classes Only)
November 26, 2005 to April 9, 2006

SUBJECTS	REVIEWERS
REMEDIAL LAW	: Justice Nicolas Lapeña, Jr. : Justice Lucas Bersamin : Judge Pedro Laggui : Judge Ma. Cristina Cornejo : Dean Michael Moralde : Fiscal Danilo Formoso
CIVIL LAW	: Justice Amelita Tolentino : Dean Eduardo Abella : Dean Michael Moralde : Dean Augusto Aligada
MERCANTILE LAW	: Dean Eduardo Abella : Dean Joe-Santos Bisquera : Atty. Nicanor Padilla, Jr.
POLITICAL LAW	: Justice Oswaldo Agcaoili : Atty. Edwin Sandoval : Atty. Jacinto Jimenez : Atty. Nicanor Padilla, Jr.
CRIMINAL LAW	: Justice Rodolfo Palattao : Justice Edilberto Sandoval : Judge Pedro Laggui : Judge Ma. Cristina Cornejo : Dean Carlos Ortega : Fiscal Danilo Formoso
TAXATION LAW	: Dean Joe-Santos Bisquera : Atty. Nicasio Cabanelro
LABOR LAW	: Atty. Oswald Lorenzo : Atty. Salvador Poquiz
LEGAL ETHICS	: Justice Nicolas Lapeña Jr. : Dean Prudencio Valencia
CONFLICT OF LAWS	: Justice Jorge Coquia : Dean Prudencio Valencia
PRACTICAL EXERCISES	: Dean Eduardo Abella
LAND TITLES & DEEDS	: Dir. Ramon Cassanova
BAR METHODS & TECHNIQUES	: Atty. Arlene Maneja

REVIEW COURSES:
CPA BOARD REVIEW
CRIMINOLOGY BOARD REVIEW
CIVIL ENGINEERING REFRESHER COURSE
TEACHERS' BOARD REVIEW (LET)

Help increase the productivity of your child in school! Get him a PC today
PACKAGE SPECIFICATIONS
Processor Intel Pentium 4 2.66GHz Processor
Memory 128MB DDR
Video Integrated Video
Sound Integrated Sound/LAN
Modem 56K Internal Modem
Floppy Drive 1.44 Floppy Disk Drive
CD-ROM 52x CD-ROM Drive
Hard Drive 40GB 5400rpm Hard Disk Drive
Case ATX Casing w/ 300W PSU
Accessories PS/2 Keyboard and Mouse
Speaker 180 Watts Speakers
Monitor 15" Colored Monitor
Warranty 1 year on parts and service
as low as P19,000
visit us online at www.rsuncomputers.com
RISING SUN
www.rsuncomputers.com
Manila: 2241 Taft Avenue, Malate, Manila Tel Nos: 536-2857 to 58
Mandaluyong: 713 Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City Tel No: 722-7898

In the Light of Truth
The Grail Message by Ad-ru-shin
"In the Light of Truth", the Grail Message, is a classic work that offers clear and perceptive answers to questions which challenge every human being. Written by a German author between the years 1923-1938, it is a collection of 168 essays addressing all spheres of life ranging from God and the Universe to the Laws of Creation. It answers eternal questions such as:
What does it mean to be human?
What is the purpose of life on Earth?
What happens to "me" when I die?
In this context, the author writes: "I wish to fill the gaps which so far have remain unanswered in the souls of men as burning questions, and which never leave any serious thinker in peace."
To perceive the values within the simplicity and unswerving logic of the Grail Message, no specific type of education is required. Age, sex, race and religious background present no barriers, unless they are self-imposed. However, reading the Grail Message requires an open mind and a seeking spirit.
Contact Address:
Evelyn Aurelio
47 St. Mary Street
Cubao, Quezon City
Tel. 9950507, Mobile 0919 6348320
More information:
www.grailmessage.com
mail@grail-asia.net
Published by Stiftung Gralsbotschaft, Stuttgart, Germany

Millions in China's Harbin waterless for 3rd day

Second China chemical plant blast forces thousands to flee

BEIJING—A CHEMICAL PLANT explosion in southwest China has killed one worker and forced thousands of people to be evacuated, state media reported Friday, raising fears of a second environmental disaster in two weeks.

The explosion occurred around 11 a.m. Thursday at the Yingte chemical plant in Chongqing municipality's Dianjiang county, the China Business News said.

One female worker died and three others were injured. Over 10,000 residents and students near the plant were evacuated, according to the report.

Two of the workers in a critical condition were suffering from benzene poisoning and burns, it said. Benzene is a carcinogen that can kill if someone suffers high exposure, even in small doses.

The report quoted a safety production official as saying the explosion happened as workers were mixing liquid chemicals in a container.

The first explosion happened near large quantities of barrels of benzene and sparked off a massive blast, the report said.

After a loud bang, a murky yellow cloud "blanketed the sky and the smell was choking," the newspaper said, quoting a local resident.

Officials ordered villagers to stop using local rivers and the local environmental bureau gathered local water and air samples for testing.

Chongqing and Dianjiang's environmental bureau, as well as local safety authorities and the county government, refused to comment when contacted by AFP.

The factory did not have a valid safety production license, the China Business News report said.

Thursday's accident bears similarities to a massive chemical plant explosion in northeast China's Jilin province on Nov. 13 that killed five people and caused major contamination of the 1,897-kilometer Songhua river. *AFP*

HARBIN, CHINA—MILLIONS OF RESIDENTS in China's Harbin city Friday endured their third full day without running water Friday due to a toxic chemical spill, as the government worked frantically to clean up the pollution.

Harbin's taps remained turned off as an 80-kilometer slick of the carcinogen benzene and nitrobenzene that was well above national safety levels flowed slowly through the city along the partially frozen Songhua river.

While the government tried to reassure Harbin's 3.8 million urban residents that water supplies would resume quickly, many people were still evacuating the city and engineers were continuing to sink dozens of wells.

Millions of bottles of water were also being trucked in to replenish supermarket and shop shelves that had been stripped bare at the beginning of the crisis.

The slick reached Harbin, the industrial capital of Heilongjiang province in China's far northeast on Thursday morning after taking 11 days to flow 380 kilometers down the Songhua from the spill site in neighboring Jilin province.

The spill occurred after an explosion at the PetroChina chemical factory on Nov. 13 in Jilin city, although the government refused to admit until Wednesday—10 days later—that the river had been polluted.

Harbin government officials said the contaminated water was due to exit the city's water catchment areas by early Saturday, with taps to be turned on again on Sunday.

"The mayor has requested the concerned authorities to allow the public water system to resume services on Nov. 27," Heilongjiang public water works spokesperson Liu Yuzhu told AFP on Friday.

Xinhua news agency said the polluted water in Harbin remained 30 times above national safety levels on Friday morning.

Although the initial panic of water hoarding that preceded the water stoppage appeared to have passed, many residents were still unprepared to put their trust in a government that had initially covered up the chemical spill.

A saleswoman at the Harbin Taifu ticket center told AFP all train seats out of the city remained booked out on Friday, a scenario usually only associated with national holidays and festivals.

"There are no tickets available for the next week... it is do with the water pollution," the saleswoman, who did not want to be named, said.

A salesman at Harbin airport said sales remained unusually brisk on Friday, with only a few tickets left for Beijing.

The China Daily quoted Harbin businessman Liu Yunlong as saying he was sending his two sons out of the city to avoid any chance of contamination.

"I can't afford to let anything happen to my children," Liu said.

The psychological strain of the water stoppage and contamination fears were also beginning to take a toll with the Harbin authorities setting up counseling hotlines on Thursday for anxious residents, Xinhua said.

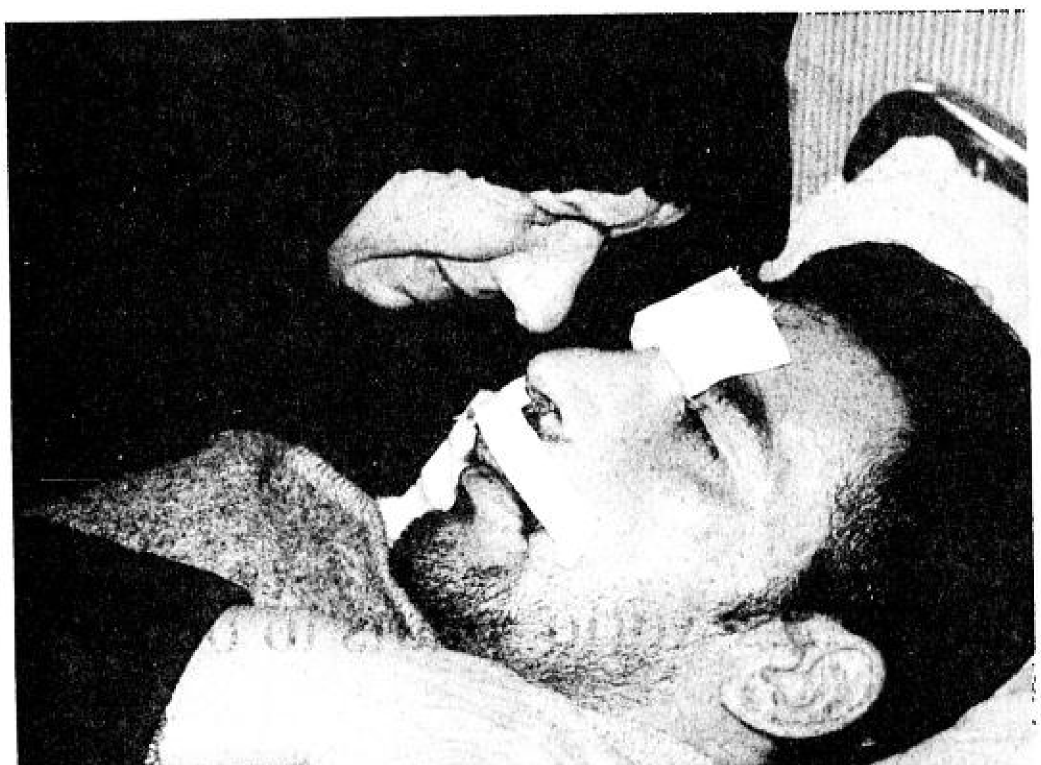
And although authorities said taps would be turned on again this weekend, the local government said on its website that 55 wells had been sunk over the past three days and there were plans for many more.

Nevertheless, local authorities were relentlessly upbeat about the city's ability to brush aside the crisis.

"The provincial governor has pledged to drink the first glass of water after the mains are turned on," Liu, at the public water works, said.

"We want to assure everyone that the water is going to be safe to drink. All our efforts are aimed at providing clean and safe drinking water." *AFP*

idec
Split Type Aircon
1hp-P16,500
1.5hp-P18,500, 2hp-P25,000, 2.5hp-P30,000
Floor Mounted
3hp-P39,500 5hp-P55,000
Free Installation!
Call: 8866696/7880221
Available at MC Home Depot -Makati, Fort Bonifacio & Ortigas
Cebu-(032)346-5498 / Davao-(082)235-8821



AN IRAQI woman cries as she visits her wounded son Abdullah at a local hospital in the city of Hilla, south of Baghdad, Nov. 25. Abdullah is one of 13 Iraqis who were wounded in yesterday's car bomb attack in a busy shopping district of Hilla. AFP

NEW
BEST PRICE... BEST LOCATION...
PACIFIC Regency
38-storey Office, Commercial and Residential Condominium
Pablo Ocampo Sr. Ave. (Formerly Vito Cruz), Manila
Own a unit for as low as P8,980/mo. In-house financing available
Function room
Swimming Pool
Sauna for men & women
24-hour association security
Roofdeck / Viewing deck
Children's playground
Gym, jogging area
Laundromat area
CITYLAND
HLURB License to sell #09133
Leading Condominium Developer (Presidential Awardee)
812-2222 • 243-6565 • 818-8888 • 241-1894 • 892-6150
(0919)310-8553 • www.cityland.net • investment@cityland.net

bio research NEW & IMPROVED SUCAT HYPERMART
101 destination points...
THE ULTIMATE Pet EXPERIENCE!
OVER 2 MILLION
LOWEST PRICE EVER!
PETS & PET PRODUCTS AVAILABLE!
LARGEST KOI PAVILLON SALE! ON IMPORTED KOIS ALL SIZES
10cm up P20.00 up
IMPORTED BETTA
•CROWN TAIL
•HALF-MOON
•DOUBLE TAIL
•SUPER DELTA
•VEIL TAIL
P36.00 up
LATEST FLOWERHORN
•RED DRAGON
•BLUE DRAGON
•BLUE FACE
•RED CRYSTAL
P20.00 up
BABY HAND FED PARAKEETS NOW 175 P140.00 EACH
HAMSTERS
T.bear Hamster 50 NOW P30.00 EACH
Siberian Hamster 135 P95.00 EACH
Roborovski 500 P349.00
RABBIT 160 NOW P110.00
ABYSSINIAN GUINEA PIGS 150 NOW P110.00
FREE ENTRANCE PARKING
Contact: Nath Ngo 826-3535 loc. 134 / 137
FREE FISH for KIDS EVERY SAT. & SUNDAY
Mon-Sat 8am - 5pm
Sunday 9am - 6pm
Guaranteed It's worth the trip!
8362 Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat Parañaque (3.5 Km from Sucat Exit, ½ km after Manila Mem. Park next to BPI Bank -across Tecnogas) Tels.: 826-3535 to 38
Fax: 825-5120 Txt: (0919) 860-8037
email: biosucat@bioresearch.com.ph
Per DTI - NCR Permit No. A2-568 Series of 2005

Suicide car bomber kills 34 outside hospital near Baghdad

MAHMOUDIYA, IRAQ—A SUICIDE car bomber attacked a hospital south of Baghdad on Thursday, killing 34 people and wounding dozens more as militants stepped up their campaign of violence before elections next month.

The explosives-packed car detonated as Iraqi security forces were gathered outside Mahmoudiya General Hospital and as US civil affairs soldiers were visiting the facility to look at ways to improve it, the US Army and witnesses said.

Another car bomb exploded near a crowded market in Hilla, 100 km south of Baghdad, killing up to four people, police said. Police earlier said up to 14 may have been killed.

In the Mahmoudiya blast, four US troops were wounded, but most of those killed and injured were civilians, including Hoda Ali Mahmoud, a 30-year-old woman whose young son was killed. She had taken him to the hospital for treatment for a cold.

"The glass flew at us," she said, sobbing as she sat up in hospital. "His nose was hit and he couldn't breathe." *Reuters*

TAGAYTAY TREATS!
RESIDENCE INN TAGAYTAY & PARADIZOO
ENTRANCE P100 P99 PER PAX
ZOOPER TRIP
DAY TOURS VIA TIGERS ON THE RUN COASTER (SAT/SUN TRIP)
•MNLA-TAGAYTAY-MNLA
P399/PAX
☑ Mendez Paradizoo Tour
☑ Res. Inn Zoo Tour
☑ Magic/Pantomime Show
☑ Binalot Lunch
EDUCATIONAL & PICNIC TOUR @ PARADIZOO
ENTRANCE ONLY | ENTRANCE W/ FOOD
KIDS P49 P69
ADULTS P69 P99
OVERNIGHT STAY
TAGAYTAY EXPLORE
☑ View Deck overnight stay
☑ Breakfast meal
☑ Magic/ Pantomime Show
☑ Animal/ Bird Show
☑ Paradizoo & Mini-Zoo
P1,490 PER PAX. MIN. OF 2
RESIDENCE INN TAGAYTAY: Km 65 (Boundary of Alfonso/Tagaytay) CALL: (02) 898-3695, 899-9595 loc. 344, 899-9819/24, 895-7142; 817-8712; TXT: 0917-8351111; TAGAYTAY: (046) 860-2238; VISIT: www.residenceinnresorts.com
ALSO AVAILABLE SUBIC/CLARK TOUR PACKAGES!

MCLE COMPLIANCE PROGRAM FOR LAWYERS
University of the Philippines Law Center
INSTITUTE OF JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION

Non-Completion or Non-Compliance with the 36-unit MCLE Requirement during the 1st Compliance Period which ended on 31 December 2004, would mean being listed as a delinquent member of the IBP and will not be permitted to practice law until such time as adequate proof of Compliance is received by the Supreme Court MCLE Governing Board. *LAWYERS MAY AVAIL OF U.P. LAW CENTER'S MCLE – ONE WEEK COURSE (36 UNITS) on 5-9 DECEMBER 2005 AT THE FIRST FLOOR, BOCOBO HALL, U.P. LAW CENTER*

MCLE Compliance Program (One-Week Course)
First Floor, Lecture Hall, U.P. Law Center
5-9 December 2005

DATE	SUBJECT	CREDIT HOURS*	LECTURERS
5 December	Ethical Dimensions in the Availment of Legal Remedies and Court Processes (*Legal Ethics*)	Three (3) (9:00-12:00)	*Justice Hilarion L. Aquino*
	Updates on Strikes Picketing and Lockouts (*Substantive Law*)	Three (3) (1:30-4:30)	*Dean Antonio H. Abad, Jr.*
6 December	Rules of Procedure in Nullity, Annulment, Legal Separation, Provisional Remedies and Adoption (*MCLE Prescribed*)	Three (3) (9:00-12:00)	*DCA Zenaida N. Elepano*
	Legal Research and Writing (*Legal Writing*)	Four (4) (1:00-5:00)	*Prof. Myrna S. Feliciano*
7 December	Problem Areas in Legal Ethics	Three (3) (9:00-12:00)	*Justice Jose L. Sabio, Jr.*
	Mediation and the Role of Lawyers (*ADR*)	Two (2) (1:00-3:00)	*Prof. Alfredo F. Tadiar*
	Updates in Criminal Procedure (*Procedural Law*)	Three (3) (3:15-6:15)	*Justice Oscar M. Herrera, Sr.*
8 December	Anti-Money Laundering Act (*MCLE Prescribed*)	Three (3) (9:00-12:00)	*Atty. Celia E. Sandejas*
	Problems in International Law Practice Before Philippine Courts (*International Law*)	Two (2) (1:00-3:00)	*Dean Merlin M. Magallona*
	ADR Applications in Commercial Disputes (*ADR*)	Three (3) (3:15-6:15)	*Dean Custodio O. Parlade*
9 December	Updates in Criminal Law (*Substantive Law*)	Three (3) (9:00-12:00)	*Justice Rodolfo G. Palattao*
	Effective Availment of the Modes of Discovery During Trial (*Pre-Trial and Trial Skills*)	Four (4) (1:00-5:00)	*Justice Lucas P. Bersamin*

**Schedules are subject to change without prior notice. Kindly confirm lecture schedules prior to registration and attendance.*
REGISTRATION FEE P10,000.00/package or P1,200/session (morning or afternoon session). The fee is inclusive of snacks, MCLE Accredited Certificates of Attendance and handouts.
FOR DETAILS: PLEASE CALL 929-7137, 9205514 LOC. 208-209

THE GREAT ITALIAN SALE
UP TO 50% OFF
ON ALL 2005 ITEMS
until supplies last

LINEA ITALIA
• Ayala 6750 812-9166
• SM Megamall 633-2068
• Ayala Cebu (032) 231-5518

PRIMA LINEA
• Greenbelt 3 757-4544
• Ayala Center Cebu (032) 231-5517

VIVA
SM Cebu (032) 232-1443

LINEA UOMO
• Park Square 1 815-1227
• SM Megamall 633-2071
• Ayala Cebu (032) 231-5370

CORSO MARCONI
2305 Marconi St., San Isidro Makati 843-3942

LINEA ITALIA GROUP
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2544, Series of 2005

South Korea's edge in human cloning to survive ethics scandal, experts say

SEOUL—SOUTH KOREA'S EDGE in stem cell research has been blunted but will survive cloning pioneer Hwang Woo-suk's admission of ethical irregularities, according to experts here.

Hwang admitted Thursday that he had covered up the fact that researchers in his team had donated their own eggs to research that produced the world's first cloned human embryo for generating stems cells.

Taking responsibility for ethical violations, he stepped down from all official posts including the chairmanship of a new research body, the World Stem Cell Hub, established only last month by the government.

The hub is intended to attract worldwide expertise to Seoul and serve as a source of stem cell lines for research institutes worldwide.

Those plans are now in doubt.

Hwang's mea culpa before the media on Thursday was triggered by news that Gerald Schatten, a prominent researcher at the University of Pittsburgh, had ended a 20-month collaboration with the South Korean stem cell pioneer.

Under internationally accepted medical ethics standards, researchers are warned against receiving ova from members of their own research teams because they are considered in a dependent relationship and vulnerable to pressure.

However, South Korea's Ministry of Health and Welfare said Hwang had done nothing wrong, either ethically or legally, and no coercion took place, citing an ethics report by a review board at Seoul National University to which Hwang's team is affiliated.

More significantly perhaps, the government said it would continue to back Hwang with generous financial aid for his own research and the hub project.

However, Hwang and his co-researchers acknowledge that the hub project is essentially a collaborative effort and could be seriously hurt if overseas experts in biomedical science decide to shun South Korea.

"The episode dealt a blow to South Korean stem cell research at a crucial time when they need support and unity for the groundbreaking study," said Prof. Kong Il-keun, bioengineering expert at Suncheon National University.

"Trust in the research team has been damaged and the international hub for stem cell research has as well," said the JoongAng Daily, a leading newspaper.

However, cardiologist Lee Jeongryul, a member of Hwang's team, said foreign researchers would come back once the dust had settled and more was known about the scandal.

"This matter is about credibility and after the matter has been cleared up... I believe everyone will come back and join the research again," he said. *AFP*

INQUIRER Platinum Code

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER • 1985 • 20 • PLATINUM ANNIVERSARY • 2005

What do you call the meaty part of the human body that you sit on?

Find the answer to the question in the highlighted letters above. Highlighted letters may be used more than once. Text in your answer to 29768* for SMART, Globe, and Sun Cellular subscribers and get a chance to win in the weekly or grand draws!

*To join, initially send **PDI<space>20<space>answer<space>name/address/age/gender** to **29768**. Ex.: **PDI 20 ANSWER Jonah Imperial/#1 Paco St., Makati/22/F**. For succeeding answers, the registered subscriber simply sends **PDI<space>20<space>answer** to **29768**. Each entry sent is P2.50. Each participant is allowed a maximum of 3 entries per day.

Prizes at stake:
Weekly Prize: One (1) Winner – P 20,000 in Cash
Grand Prize: One (1) Winner – P 200,000 in Cash
Note: The 20% tax on prizes exceeding P10,000 will be shouldered by the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

See print ads and flyers for complete details.

INQUIRER

Promo runs from July 17 to December 3, 2005.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4227, Series of 2005

11-28

Shell helps change Filipino lives for the better.

Brings life-changing programs to help build the nation.

GAS MO, BUKAS KO fuels the dreams of Shell gas attendants

Gasoline attendants by day, students by night – qualified Shell gas boys and girls who have ambitions to study and work hard for a better life are now given the opportunity to attend night school.

Initiated in June this year, an initial batch of 50 youths are now studying either basic computer or auto gas mechanic vocational course at the De La Salle Greenhills Night School – completely free of charge. This is Shell's way of giving dignity to their labor as well as lighting the way for them to train and work towards achieving their dreams.

Shell - Gawad Kalinga builds homes and dreams

As a socially-responsible company, Shell encourages volunteerism among its employees. The Shell - Gawad Kalinga Build Movement is one such concrete example of this. As part of the company's "Malasakit" project, the program is aimed at giving the staff opportunities to make their individual contribution to nation-building. In this case, helping build homes and dreams for the homeless and needy.

The site of Shell - Gawad Kalinga Village is Barangay Libjo in Batangas City, just 2 kilometers away from the company's Tabangao refinery. To date, 14 colorful homes dubbed as "rainbow houses" have been built, with more homes being constructed through the joint effort of Shell staff and GK volunteers.

The Shell - Gawad Kalinga Village is the company's way of helping Gawad Kalinga achieve its goal of GK777 – to build 700,000 homes in 7,000 communities in 7 years.

SKIL equips deserving youths the tools for a better future

Founded in 1992, SKIL (Sanayan sa Kakayahang Industriyal) is one of the projects under the Pilipinas Shell Foundation, Youth Programs that provide industrial skills training for deprived but deserving Filipino youths. Under SKIL, they are provided a one-year scholarship grant towards earning a certification in courses such as automotive mechanic, welding, electricity and electro-mechanics, electronics, machine shop, sheet metal, industrial sewing machine operation, and data encoding.

The scholarship is comprised of three phases: First is the in-center training phase which is made up of 60% hands-on or actual work and 40% theory or attitudinal sessions. Second is the PLEAD (Personal Leadership Enhancement and Attitude Development) Workshop, a 3-day, live-in workshop on personal development. The third and last phase is on-the-job training which is 3-6 months long with hands-on exposure at accredited shops or industries.

SAKA breeds a new generation of farmers

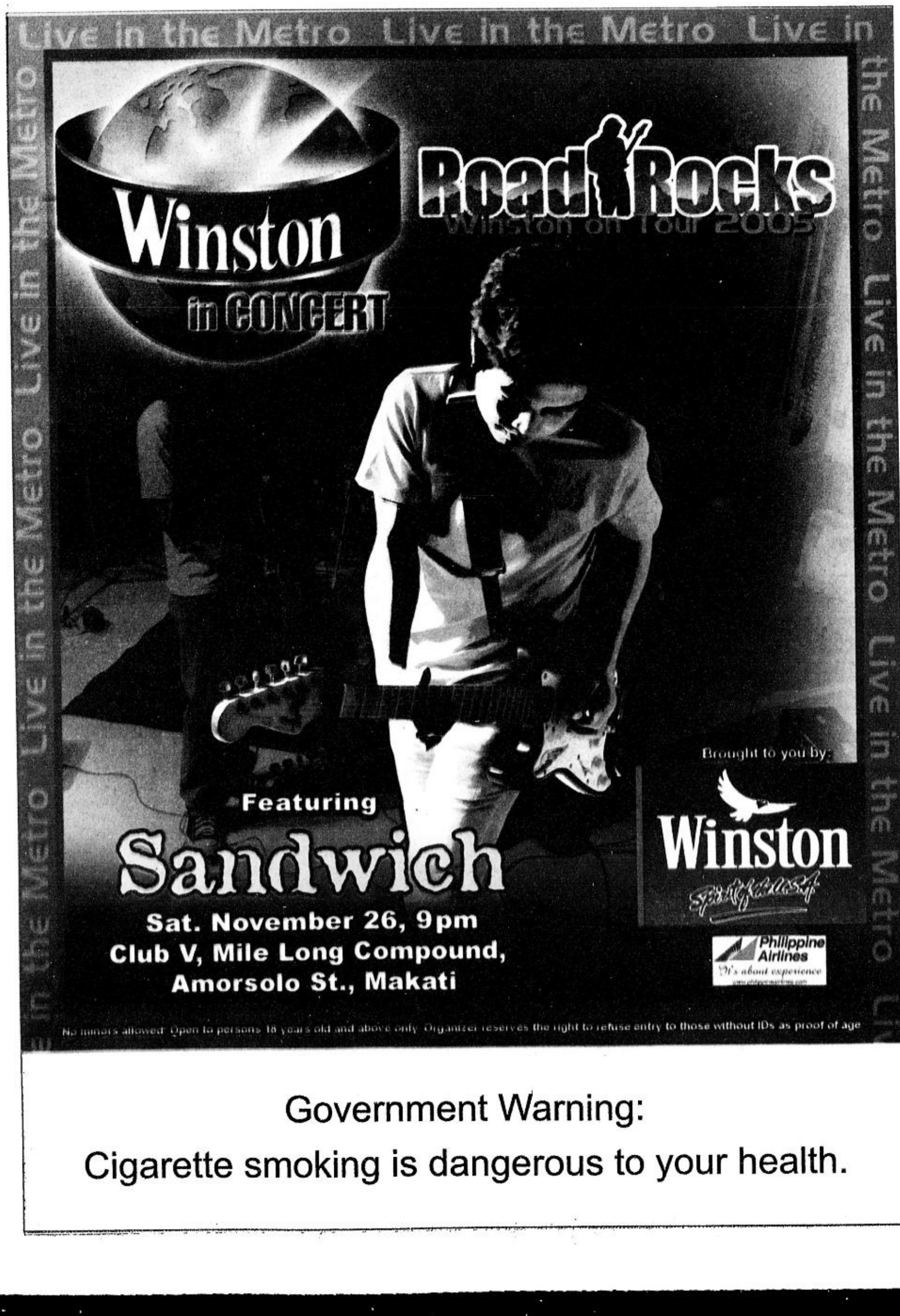
An agricultural skills training program established in 1985, SAKA (Sanayan sa Kakayahang Agrikultura) has been transforming out-of-school youth into a new breed of farmers. The program seeks to encourage the youth to return to farming using techniques to improve farm productivity and management as well as the family income. To date, SAKA has produced over a thousand young farmers.

The qualified applicant receives a one-year training course that covers areas such as crop and animal production, agriculture and agro-forestry technology, farm management, equipment maintenance, and minor accounting and communication skills. The program is 70% hands-on and 30% theory. Besides training, it also provides start-up loans for the scholars so they can generate income by trading livestock and crops.

SKP keeps the entrepreneurial spirit alive

Launched last year, SKP (Sanayan sa Kakayahang Pangangalakal) is a 5-day entrepreneurship training program for women, fisherfolks, farmers, out-of-school youth and cooperatives all over the country.

The program recognizes the fact that entrepreneurs play a big role in helping provide more jobs and income to more people. The short course is designed to help scholars develop their entrepreneurial skills, acquainting them with the realities as well as the ins and outs of running a small business enterprise. Over a thousand scholars have benefited from the program in the short time it has been implemented.



Government Warning:

Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health.

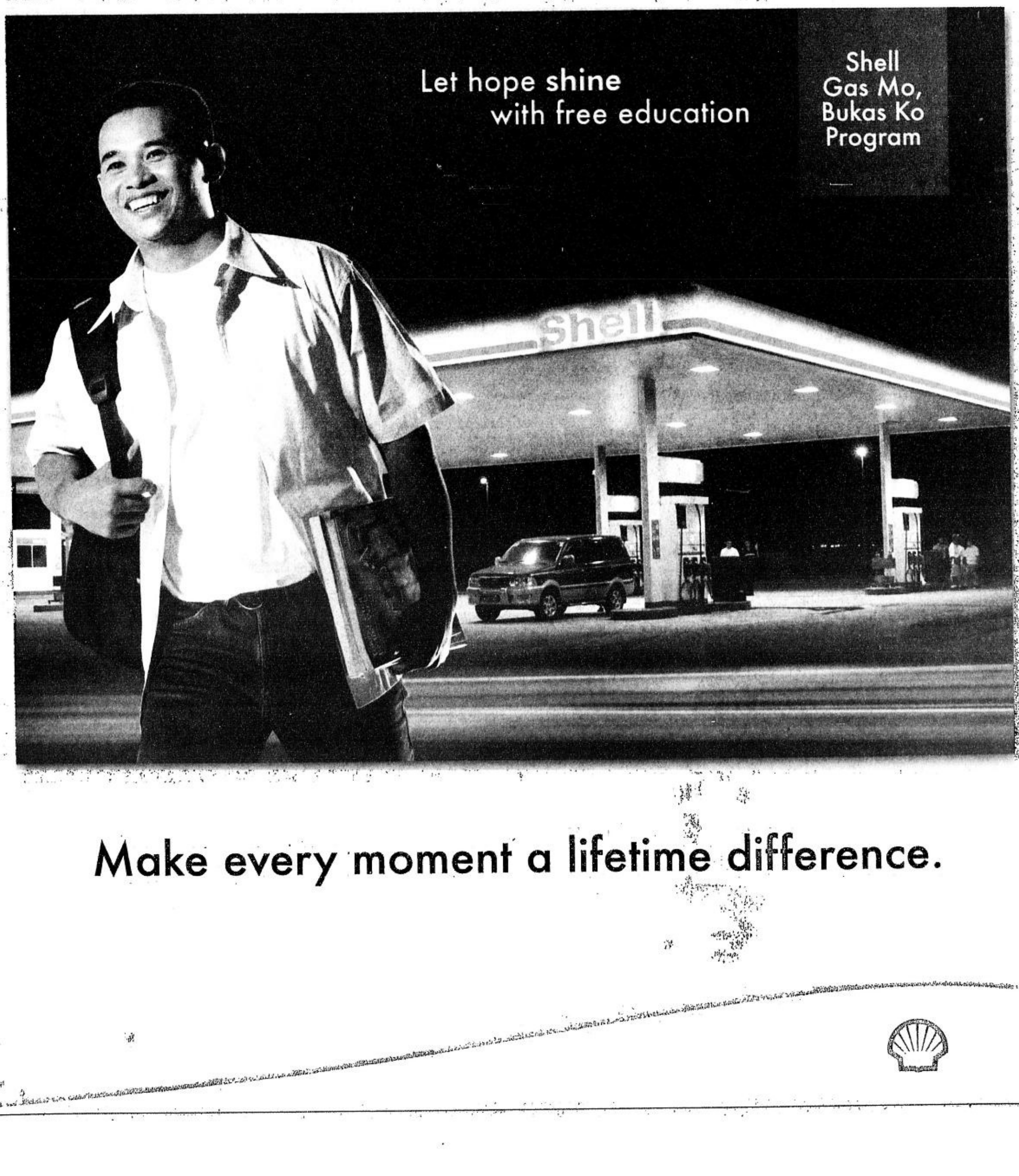
To build a nation, we must shape a future.

Discover Talents

Shell National Students Art Competition

Mold young minds

Shell National Youth Active Chess Championship



Let hope shine with free education

Shell Gas Mo, Bukas Ko Program

Make every moment a lifetime difference.

ISSN 0116-2642 INQUIRER Vol. 19 No. 351

Email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: http://www.inq7.net

OPINION

Text us your feedback: inquirer opi name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.

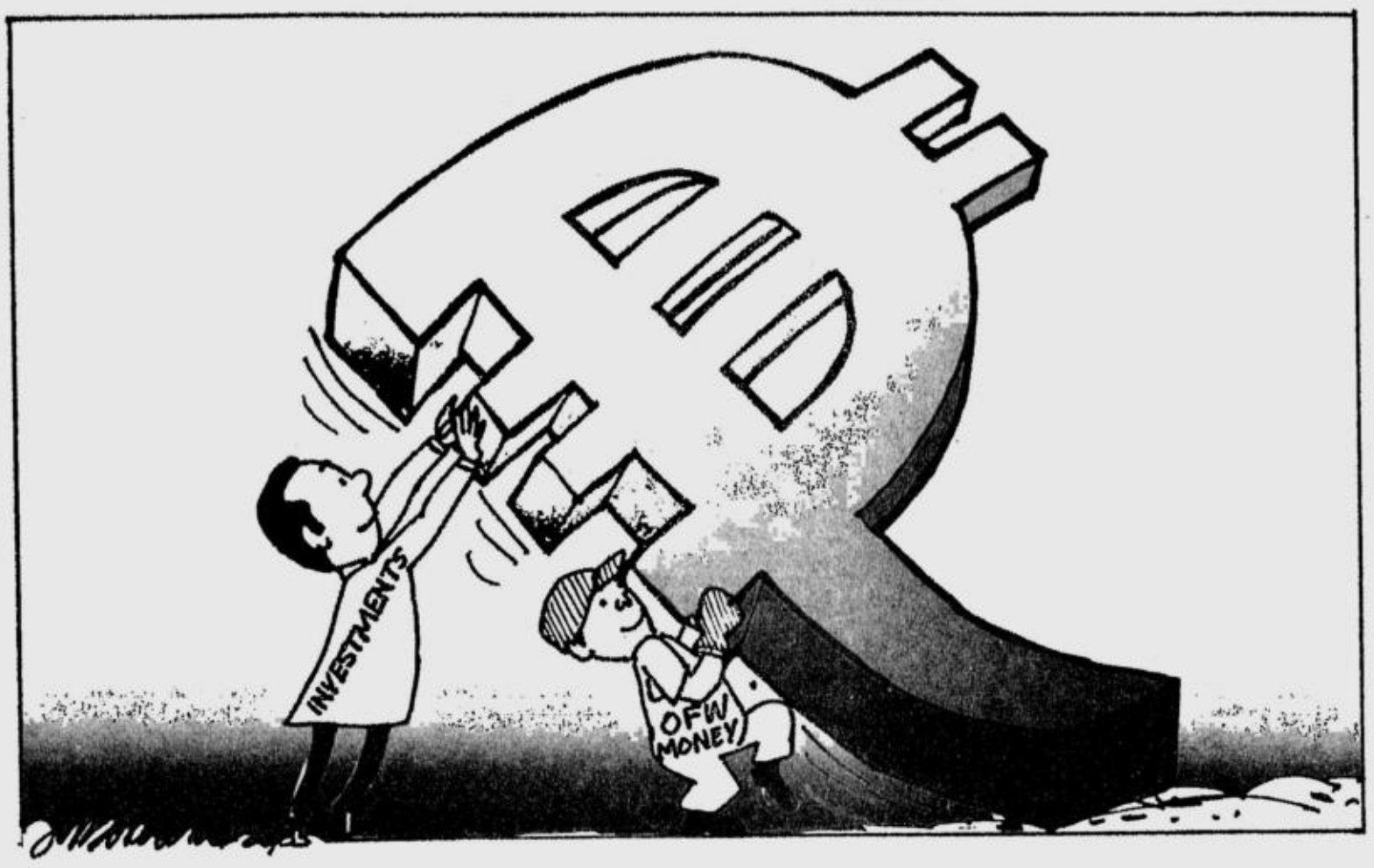
•100% soy ink•

Publisher ISAGANI YAMBOT
Editor in Chief LETTY JIMENEZ-MAGSANOC
Managing Editor JOSE MA. D. NOLASCO
Associate Editor ABELARDO S. ULANDAY
Associate Editor for Readership ROSARIO A. GARCELLANO
News Editor ARTEMIO T. ENGRACIA JR. • *Chief, News Day Desk* NILO B. PAUROM
Opinion Editor JORGE V. ARUTA
National Editor PERGENTINO B. BANDAYREL JR.
Senior Desk Editor JUAN V. SARMIENTO JR.
Editorial Consultant AMANDO DORONILA
Chief Photographer ERNIE U. SARMIENTO
Art & Design Director LYNETT A. VILLARIBA

Board Chairman MARIXI R. PRIETO
President ALEXANDRA PRIETO-ROMUALDEZ
Executive Vice President DAVID O. VALDES
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing RENATO R. REINOSO
VP for Advertising FELIPE R. OLARTE
AVP for Circulation GLORIA P. LARDIZABAL

Readers' Advocate LORNA KALAW TIROL
readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph
Tel. No. 897-8808, Loc. 342; Cell Phone No. 0917-805-7412

All rights reserved. Except as permitted by law, no part of the Philippine Daily Inquirer may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means stored in a database or retrieval system without its prior written permission.



Blind justice

JUSTICE SECRETARY RAUL GONZALEZ HAS BEEN behaving with a curious combination of propriety and boorishness.

His refusal, for example, to see the 22-year-old Filipina amid speculation she would recant her testimony, was correct. He said he didn't want to be seen as biased for any of the parties in the case. The last thing the case needs is any further indication that government people are pressing for a change in testimony.

EDITORIALS

However, his tactlessness has also verged on the barbaric: for example, his saying that the only exciting thing about the preliminary investigation would be the victim's panties. His other tart comments—from "What do you really need custody [for]? You would have to feed them" to "Of course, if we are the ones [with] custody, we should pay [the US Marines' expenses], including their laundry," and the rhetorical "What if they say we have to detain them in an air-conditioned room?"—may have a certain logic to them, but they only serve to inflame passions.

It is not for us to determine if Gonzalez gets some malicious pleasure from making provocative statements. But it does seem that the accusations, at this point, may be on the verge of changing. As it is, Timoteo Soriano, the driver of the van rented by the American soldiers and in which the rape allegedly took place, has said that Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) security chief Paquito Torres coerced him into linking six Americans to the alleged rape. Then he changed the number of Americans in the van from six to five. Now, it seems, he denies he witnessed any rape at all.

The widely reported leaks from Department of Justice officials indicating they expect the alleged rape victim to recant her previous testimony, which would necessarily result in the charges of rape being dropped, and allegations of molestation being pursued instead, are another cause for concern. With emotions riding high on the issue, both sides—those rooting for the young lady and those skeptical of her truthfulness and virtue—will be easily tempted to simply solidify their preconceptions.

It is a bit late for Gonzalez to be Solomonic and to attempt at being strictly neutral. He hasn't, at least, not so far; he would be better off going on leave, after his initial remarks, rather than preside over a department perceived to be willing to kowtow to both American and presidential pressure. What he owes the country is the best prosecution that can be mustered; the only thing he owes the Americans is that they have every opportunity to mount a credible defense.

What's missing

THE FACT IS, SERIOUS ALLEGATIONS ARE JUST that—accusations, not fact—until proven in a court of law. We forget in this country, all too often, that regardless of the gravity of a crime, the accused are considered innocent until proven guilty. Ironically, the government, onion-skinned over its handling of the Subic rape case, complains it's not being given a fair deal. And yet this administration, like so many before it, has enjoyed hauling off suspects before the media, subjecting them to a trial by publicity. Now that the shoe is on the other foot, the government's crying foul.

This case is serious, and the suspicion that the government would sacrifice justice for diplomatic and military considerations is unavoidable. What should be avoided is anything that exceeds a rigorous and inflexible demand for genuine justice to be done. As many sins as there are in Philippine-American relations, and as many reasons as there may be to suspect the worst enemy of the country tends to be its own officials, what is on trial is not America, or even Philippine-American relations, but several US servicemen who are as much a disgrace to their country and profession as they are an affront to Filipino sensibilities.

In the end, the prosecution must build a case stronger than the apparently changeable testimonies of both the victim and other witnesses. We have heard all too often that witness testimony pales in comparison to genuine physical evidence. The question is whether the medico-legal exam, and the evidence recovered from the scene, will suffice—and were sufficiently, professionally, handled to prove a case and secure a conviction.

Will Garci talk?

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

THE ADMINISTRATION OF PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo appears to be the most graft-ridden since the establishment of the Commonwealth government in 1935. Previous Presidents of the Philippines from Manuel L. Quezon to even Joseph Estrada had their shortcomings in varying degrees but not on the same horrendous scale as GMA.

(Excluded from this comparison is Ferdinand Marcos whose corruption was *sui generic*.)

Estrada was impeached and charged with many atrocious crimes for which he is now accused of plunder. But his alleged offenses do not include the ravishment of the election process which is the principal transgression imputed to President Arroyo. President Estrada was legitimately elected with a resounding majority he did not have to buy. President Arroyo is charged with embezzling hundreds of millions of public funds to insure her questionable victory last year.

The most compelling evidence against her is the Garci tapes which she has practically admitted albeit only as what she calls a "lapse in judgment." Many people disagree and condemn it as a direct instruction to a hired factotum to falsify the election results in Mindanao and give her a lead of a million votes over her nearest rival. Fernando Poe Jr. died soon afterwards of a stroke, perhaps in indignant disbelief that he was walloped in what he considered his invincible bailiwick.

The Garci tapes were the *bête noire* of the resolution to impeach President Arroyo which was roundly rejected in the House of Representatives last September. The minions of the President were quick to crow that her supposed victory has discredited the charge that she had cheated; they say the issue is now dead and should be buried and forgotten. GMA herself has magnanimously forgiven her detractors and called for a national reconciliation. As expected, it was rejected outright by her opponents.

The stench of the Garci tapes is too loathsome to be simply dismissed as if it were a done deal like so many other anomalies conveniently covered up by the authorities. The Garci controversy should not be one of them. This involves not only pesos and centavos malversed for private advantage but the legitimacy of the title held by President Arroyo. This question must be objectively investigated; the mystery must be solved lest it remain an indelible blemish in the nation's history.

The best argument of GMA's criminal involvement in her suspected election last year was the disappearance of former Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano of the Commission on Elections. He is supposed to be the flunky in the tapes receiving orders from the President. More than any other person, it was he who could shed light on their conversations but he was suddenly nowhere to be found. Even the media could not locate him. The President, especially as commander in chief, mechanically ordered a search for him, but her soldiers and policemen merely made the motions of obeying.

Soon enough, and to nobody's surprise, the news broke that Garcillano had left the country, supposedly without the knowledge or consent of the immigration bureau. Or, for that matter, any other office in the government, including Malacañang. For a time, there was no information on his whereabouts, but now, as suddenly, it is reported that he is back somewhere in Mindanao. His wife herself says so, but it is not yet certain when and if he will appear to confirm the news. Meanwhile, there is that warrant of arrest issued by the House of Representatives that waits to be served on him to compel him to testify on the Garci tapes.

I keep repeating in this column that "the guilty flee when no man pursueth but the righteous are as bold as the lion." This Biblical adage should apply to Garcillano for his evasiveness in answering pertinent questions about the tapes that now bear his fugitive name. So fearful must he be of his inquisition that he has so far remained invisible and inaccessible, possibly with the consent and even the direction of the administration of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

The President must also be apprehensive of what Garcillano might reveal when subjected to rigorous cross-examination in the search for the truth about the last presidential election. It is something not only the political opposition but the entire nation as well, whether for or against her, have a right to know.

The persistent suspicion about the squandering of public funds to quash the resolutions to impeach Ms Arroyo is closely related to the issue of the Garci tapes as the basic incrimination against her. Her apparent complicity in the alleged election irregularities may have been the desperate reason for the illegal disbursement of monetary persuasions to suppress and destroy the tapes.

What will Garcillano finally have to say about the tapes?

The escape of vital witnesses against powerful government officials to unknown whereabouts or expensive hideouts has become a lucrative occupation in this country. Damaging testimony is for sale to the highest bidder, often purchased with public funds. Let us hope that Garcillano will prove, beyond the whisper of a doubt, that his testimony is dictated not by money but the truth.

GASC, UP Collegian and media

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

BLATANT DISREGARD OF THE RULES. RAILroading. Filibustering. Abuse of power. Indecorous behavior. Disruption of parliamentary proceedings. Walkouts.

Sounds like the Philippine legislature? Actually, closer to the Taiwanese legislature, which has grabbed international attention more than once with pictures of its members engaged in free-for-all brawls inside the assembly hall; or the South Korean legislature (although I only read about it once).

But not this time. The description above applies to what happened during the two-day General Assembly of Student Councils (GASC) of the University of the Philippines, presided over by the current student regent (SR—the student representative to the UP's Board of Regents), a couple of weeks ago. At issue was the proposed amendments to the Codified Rules for Student Regent Selection (CRSRS), which the GASC, composed of all the student councils in the UP System, is tasked to deliberate and decide on, because it is also tasked to select the SR on the basis of the CRSRS.

The three major proposed amendments seem eminently reasonable: requiring that SR candidates must meet the minimum academic standards set in the University Code (during my time, one couldn't even be a member of a student organization if one had a red mark); removing the role of an organization called Kasama sa UP from the selection process (its role is identical to those of the university and college student councils themselves); and widening the voting base for electing the SR (a more direct manner of selection).

Reasonable as these proposals may sound, they have been rejected over and over again, every year since the CRSRS was first approved in 1997. Why? Simple: The Kasama sa UP, which is affiliated with the leftist organization Anakbayan, had controlled the selection of most student regents since 1986, and continued to hold the majority of GASC members since the latter's creation in 1996.

Until this year, that is, when the "non-aligned" (those who didn't want to be controlled by an ideology) student councils gained the majority in the GASC. At last, they thought, the reforms could push through.

But the Kasama had many tricks up its sleeve.

Usually, the GASC meets twice a year—the first, to set the rules for the selection of the student regent, and the second, to do the actual selection. But the GASC meeting in Cebu in October was taken up just for adopting the house rules; so another meeting had to be set to consider the CRSRS itself. Delay.

The second meeting, the one that ended up making the Taiwanese legislators' antics look like child's play, was set for Nov. 12 and 13. On the first day, almost 10 hours passed before the amendment on good academic standing could be proposed—and the debate was suspended after an hour. The next day, another six hours of debate on the issue took place, even if it had been previously agreed that there would be a two-hour debate limit. Finally, there was a move to divide the house (from Len Punzalan of the School of Economics Student Council). Objections followed—the debate must be exhausted. So another motion was made: this time to vote on whether it was time to vote on the amendment. The motion was ignored. Other motions along similar lines were continually ignored by the chair, the current student regent, a member of Kasama.

This was where Robert's Rules of Orders came in. Apparently, the rules (on P. 642 of the Newly Revised) contain "Remedies Against Misconduct or Dereliction of Duty in Office," which allows the maker himself—after exhausting all other means to get the chair to act—to stand in the chair's place and put the motion to a vote. Which was what Punzalan did. And where the melee began; the Kasama allies grabbed her mike and her papers; profanities and blows were exchanged. But the roll was successfully called—and the result was that 29 voted in favor, 1 against, 2 abstained, and 13 refused to vote.

At which point the SR unilaterally adjourned the meeting, which is a no-no, per the rules. Which is when another storm broke out. The body appointed a temporary chair and, despite the dispersal conducted by the UP police, continued the meeting elsewhere, adjourning at 6:30 a.m. the next day—and getting the work done.

The controversy has been fully reported and analyzed in the Philippine Collegian, the UP's official student publication; and if there are dismaying similarities in the behavior of the GASC and the behavior of the Philippine legislature, it must also be said, this time thankfully, that there is no similarity between the Philippine Collegian's coverage of a controversy (at least in this case) and that of some of its supposedly more mature counterparts in the Philippine media. The Collegian news reports were unbiased and not sensationalized; its features section carefully set down the issues and the arguments for and against the proposed amendments; equal space was given to both sides in the opinion section; and letters to the editor were printed on a first come, first served basis, with the announcement that letters not included could be resubmitted, and again treated on the same basis.

Good job, Collegian. May others follow your example. This country can ill afford decisions based on incomplete, one-sided information or assertions presented as hard facts. Given half a chance, Filipinos are capable of making wise decisions.

Cha-cha sentiments in the South

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE 23RD SEA GAMES HOSTED BY OUR country kicks off officially tomorrow at the Luneta. This is a good occasion for us Filipinos to show unity by rooting for Team Philippines. While there are a number of out-of-town venues for different sports, many events are concentrated in and around the Metro Manila area, so that they should be easy to follow. Among the games scheduled for tomorrow around the metropolis are arnis, badminton, baseball, billiards and snooker, bowling, cycling track, fencing, women's football, gymnastics (the perennial favorite), rowing, shooting, softball, squash, table tennis, wrestling and wushu. The whole schedule of events was published in various newspapers yesterday for easy reference. Let's enjoy the SEA Games.

* * *

How do people in various regions feel about the issues revolving around Charter change, such as a centralized unitary government vs. a federal type, a unicameral vs. a bicameral legislature, and a presidential system vs. a parliamentary? Are they unaware of or indifferent to what's being talked about?

From all indications, the people are quite aware of these issues. Last Oct. 24 to 28, regional representatives from various sectors in the Visayas and Mindanao discussed the major issues in the proposed constitutional revision with members of the Consultative Commission created by EO 453. The consultations were held in Cebu and Tacloban for Regions 7 and 8; Iloilo for Region 6; Zamboanga City for Region 9; Cagayan de Oro for Region 10; Davao City for Region 11; and Puerto Princesa. The participants, numbering from 150 to over 300, were from government, business, academe, youth, religious, indigenous communities, labor, military and police, and basic sectors.

* * *

The results were interesting. Jose V. Abueva, who chairs the Consultative Commission, reported that on the form of government, the regional representatives, by large majorities, favor a shift to a unicameral and parliamentary form. The only exception was Zamboanga, where a majority favored retaining the presidential system, with the separation of powers among the three branches. On the question of unitary vs. federal, again, except for Zamboanga where sentiments were divided, a federal system was strongly favored with a 10-year transition period. In Davao, "the stronghold of federalism," there was a strong clamor for a federal system to be installed right after approval of the amendments, according to Abueva.

On the issues of whether Filipinos ought to retain full control of the national patrimony and resources or whether rules should be "relaxed" in order to attract foreign investors, Abueva said that in general, those who joined the consultations favor relaxation. But he noted that some representatives feel we should be cautious about increased foreign participation in sensitive areas and want more safeguards. But at the same time, they realize that our neighbors, which have attracted heavy foreign investments, are now developed and prosperous, while the Philippines cannot provide jobs for millions of workers.

* * *

Abueva also noted that even away from the National Capital Region, where political power and severe partisan strife are concentrated, the people are "as worried and frustrated" over the nation's worsening economic and political problems. But they also seem to be turned off by what they see as "obsessive and endless politicking" in the NCR and the national government. People in the South, said Abueva, feel that their regions "deserve to have more political power, authority and resources for their own autonomous development, without having to depend on the national government and politicians." Especially since they realize "that they determined the outcome of national elections in 2004."

All these consultations are very useful for the continuing education of our people in real and effective governance.

* * *

Last May ,I wrote about my trip to South Africa with my husband and our sons Buddy and Conrad, which included a visit to the Carmelite Convent in Capetown, headed by Sr. Mary Grace Quino of Iloilo. With four other sisters from Iloilo Carmel, Sister Mary Grace was tasked to save the Capetown Carmel from dying (there have been so few vocations to replace the aging white sisters). On Monday, another Ilongga, postulant Mary Ann Militar, will leave for Capetown.

During that visit to their convent, I recounted over dzRH (courtesy of Globe Telecom), with my radio partner Cecile Alvarez on the Manila end, how Sister Mary Grace was elected president of all the English-speaking Carmels in Africa, after only a year of working there. It's a job that requires her to make her periodic visits to various convents in eight countries in the continent, under hazardous circumstances such as traveling at night by bus or flying in very small planes. Well, I just learned that this intrepid Ilongga missionary was recently reelected. *Galing talaga ng Pinoy* everywhere!

There's an urgent SOS from Capetown Carmel. Earlier, I also wrote that they had started building a chapel and that the sisters were appealing for financial help to finish it. Now they don't want to lose their construction workers, who are very good (it's hard to get workers of such caliber there). If you are feeling generous this Christmas season, send your dollar deposits to: Discalced Carmelite Nuns, C.T. Standard Bank Wynberg Branch, A/C No. 071-704-795. Code to use: SBZA-ZA-JJ. Or write to Sister Mary Grace at smgraceocd@mweb.co.za

* * *

The 7th Novena Mass to commemorate the golden anniversary of the first eucharistic celebration at the Chapel of the Holy Sacrifice in UP Diliman, will be held tomorrow, Nov. 27, at 6 p.m. Msgr. Bayani Valenzuela will officiate. UPSCAns and UP alumni are cordially invited.

She deserved it?

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

THE CYNICAL AND JUDGMENTAL MIGHT SAY that Rina Turingan Laud had it coming—risking her health and her appearance for vanity's sake. By now, you might already know of her story, which has been carried by TV and radio news shows—of how her legs and, to a lesser extent, her armpits were subjected to second-degree burns after she went for "laser" hair removal at the Mendez Face and Body Clinic in Makati.

I won't be surprised if not a few viewers and listeners reacted to her story by exclaiming that she deserved it for being so "*maarte*" (finicky). That certainly was my reaction when I first heard the news, and before I met Rina and her husband personally.

Granted, Rina may have been motivated by vanity, if not laziness, and perhaps foolishness in seeking the "treatment." "For convenience," she said simply when I asked what motivated her to go to the Mendez clinic. "I was sick and tired of shaving and having my legs waxed, and I wanted to get rid of my body hair permanently," she added. Also part of the attraction was the 80 percent discount "promo" offered by the Mendez Clinic for "laser" hair removal, in observance of its eighth anniversary.

What she didn't count on, certainly, was to get burnt in the process and have her legs—"flawless" as her high school classmate, broadcaster Karen Davila, describes them— scarred and disfigured.

* * *

LAST Oct. 6, Rina and a friend went to the Mendez Clinic to undergo "laser" hair removal. After they paid, she recounts, the clinic staff asked them if they were willing to wait or just set another appointment because the machine had overheated allegedly due to overuse. But after a few minutes, they were told the machine was functioning again and they could start with their treatment.

The attending doctor, said Rina, was Dr. Rose Delez who began by asking how much pain she could tolerate. When her friend assured the doctor that Rina had a high pain threshold, the doctor agreed that she could probably withstand the maximum intensity, which would guarantee better results. But Rina had her fears. "I kept asking the doctor if higher intensity levels could burn my skin," she recalls. Dr. Delez, in a "mocking" tone brushed off her concerns, declaring that "laser does not burn the skin, only hair follicles."

The doctor then began to slowly increase the intensity level of the machine, settling on intensity level 12; she started treating Rina's armpits before moving on to the latter's legs.

"After the procedure on my armpits, I felt stinging sensations which I thought were normal and which eventually went away after a while," Rina recounts in a statement. But even as the doctor was working on her legs, Rina remembers that the machine malfunctioned and they had to send in a technician to "supposedly recalibrate the machine."

This is how Rina recalls what happened next: "Towards the end of the treatment, I was already starting to feel uncomfortable because of stinging sensations all over my legs...when it was over, I noticed the dark stripes all over my legs. When I inquired about them, Dr. Delez replied '*namumula lang 'yan* (it's just turning red),' to which I did not agree for they looked brown to black." When Rina expressed fears that she had been burned, the doctor retorted: "*Di ba sabi mo i*-maximum *ko, kasalanan mo 'yan* (Didn't you tell me to use the maximum? It's your fault)." This the doctor would repeat many times that afternoon.

* * *

AS the minutes ticked by, the burning pain in Rina's legs only intensified, her cries bringing another doctor to look in on her. When she demanded that they call Dr. Joel Mendez himself, they tried to delay as long as they could until Rina herself limped out of the room to the front desk to demand that she be allowed to talk to Mendez. Mendez then instructed the staff to put topical anesthesia and an aloe vera mask/peel on her legs.

Rina says she was also shocked to find that the clinic did not even have basic first aid medication, and it took the staff 30 minutes to buy the topical anesthesia from a drug store. When her cries became louder as the pain increased, Rina was transferred to an enclosed room so that the other clients would not hear her.

Dr. Mendez, whose face adorns his clinic ads, showed up at the clinic 45 minutes later.

* * *

WHAT alarms and offends Rina, as well as her husband, is that even as she was transferred to another room, the clinic staff continued to administer "laser" treatments "as if nothing happened." Rina's friend had to point out to Dr. Mendez how insensitive it was of them to continue the treatment "without bothering to find out what truly transpired or checking for any malfunctions in the machine...if only to appease us, the aggrieved customer." The staff finally put a stop to the treatments, but continued accepting prepayments for later procedures.

When the pain subsided, says Rina, she contacted her cosmetic surgeon who told her to proceed to the Cardinal Santos Hospital. Dr. Mendez followed them to the hospital and instructed Dr. Barba to ride with them to Cardinal Santos. He also contacted Dr. Cathy Velez, the supplier of the machine, to meet them.

In fairness, Dr. Mendez offered to shoulder all the expenses Rina has incurred, although in a statement, he insisted that the procedure done on her met the highest medical standards. But Rina has proof of the botched procedure: her once-fair and smooth legs now bearing dark, unsightly "zebra stripes." "I can't even wear mini-skirts anymore!" exclaims Rina, a slim, fair, athletic mother of three. And for good measure, not only will her scars remain for at least a year, that is, if her doctors ever succeed in removing them. Neither will she be able to shave nor wax her legs in the meantime.

A passion for excellence

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

I HAVE A PROBLEM WITH AUTHORITY FIGures—not to mention the Establishment. This explains some things about myself and also why, among other reasons, I wasn't too fond (an understatement) of my college dean. However, at lunch the other day, I remembered her when M. Frederic Engerer, the president of Chateau Latour (the tower) said that people who devote their life to wine-making have a passion for excellence, a virtue that I find sadly lacking these days. It seems to me that we have developed an attitude of "*puede na*," which may further explain why we're lagging behind just about every country in Southeast Asia.

But going back to the dean I couldn't stand, she had an excellent roster of teachers and, to me, it remains a mystery how she managed to convince busy professionals like Prof. Teodoro Locsin, Prof. Augusto Barcelon, Prof. Justo Albert, Prof. Waldo Perfecto and some leading businessmen to bother with a lot of girls who were generally more interested in whether this or that boy was going to call and ask them out. Her powers of persuasion must have been tremendous.

So on this fine Monday, a group of us was at Red in the Shangri-la—upon the invitation of Alex and Clifford Lichaytoo and Johnny Litton (I could say getting drunk, but I'd end up being referred to as a redneck although after a while my companion was certainly getting tipsy)—being educated on the finer points of Chateau Latour that, according to a niece of mine, is the finest wine in the world.

Now why would anyone want to know about wine? That's like asking why anyone bothers to climb the Everest. Certainly I'm no wine expert. But something that has been around since the kingdom of Ur (now Iraq) and drunk by Jesus Christ and the apostles can't be all that bad. It's even possible that Chinese Admiral Zheng He came upon the grape in the Middle East and brought it back to China where it would be cultivated way back in the 15th century, a period which for the Chinese is probably recent history. (By the way, the Chinese are again trying to develop a wine industry in remote western Xinjiang province. Daniel Schuster, an award-winning vintner and pioneer of the New Zealand wine industry, believes that in 10 years China will be one of the major players among the "new wine" countries.)

Chateau Latour's history goes back to 1359 but it was burned down in 1453, during the 100 Years War; the existing tower, built from the original stones, was erected in 1625, about the same time that the Puente de España was constructed over the Pasig. (This annoys me no end because we can't even preserve a pre-war building like the Jai-Alai or a botanical garden just because of certain people's egos. Never mind the Spanish Bridge; it was the Americans who got rid of it.)

But to return to our introduction of Chateau Latour, Jannik Von Freiesleben, the agent of Latour in Asia, explained that a great wine takes time to age and you have to be willing to wait anywhere from 10 to 25 years for it to mature. The wines we had that lunch time, Les Forts de Latour (with the *foie gras*) and Chateau Latour (with the fillet and black truffled sea scallop), were generally three to five years old, although I believe there was a '96 vintage.

For those of you interested in weightier matters—like politics and who's stealing what from whom—take a breather and relax for two minutes, and let me pass on some information about the wine. The aroma and taste of Latour are of blackberries, basically black currant. M. Engerer started to wax poetic (I get that way when looking at antique statues, but there's no accounting for taste, right?), as he explained that when you drink a great wine, you're looking for something noble, with depth, concentration and elegance. (Sounds like the ideal man!)

Latour is mainly a Cabernet blend (80 percent or 20 percent Merlot), and out of the 10,000 bottles produced yearly (this is small compared to other wine brands' production, so it doesn't really need to advertise), 25 percent go to Asia, and of this volume, 80 percent end up in Japan. Enjoying wine and other "finer" things in life really has to do with the bottom line so its going to take a while—maybe a couple of hundred years—before this catches on with the general public here. But here are some tips for those who would like to have a glass of wine (it's good for the heart) once in a while. What is room temperature in a wine cellar is certainly not room temperature in the tropics, so better keep that bottle of red in the ref. Second, you may as well decant and let it oxidize or breathe in case it's not a 10- or 25-year-old. Enjoy it, don't down it. For that, you and I will have to pour some vodka rocks, or look for someone to make us a perfect vodka martini. After a couple of shots, we won't care who's doing what to whom around here.

Oh, yes, and if you really are interested, it seems that Alex and Clifford L's company Bacchus is the only one which insists on having its wines transported in refrigerated containers, which is one reason they're more expensive than others. And if you are a "chocoholic," you must try its Valrhona chocolate. That one does amazing things to everyone's dopamine and serotonin levels. Trust me.

* * *

Comments at bambiharper@yahoo.com

Exodus

YOUNG BLOOD

Chris Daniel Loza

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

IT WAS JUST A SIMPLE NIGHT OUT. DINNER AT BELLINI'S, Starbucks after that. No alcohol, although passionately singing "I Don't Wanna Miss a Thing" while walking from the Marikina Shoe Expo to Araneta Coliseum might have given others the impression that we were under the influence. Over pasta, pizza and, later, tea and frappuccino, conversation flowed easily, accompanied by occasional laughter. There were no dramas, no startling revelations, no deciphering of life, love or the lack thereof. There were just stories, both funny and mundane, and simple, unbelievable declarations, like "I lost three pounds" or "My family's visa has been approved already."

Bernz, Mich and I have been friends long before cell phones became common and video iPods were still the stuff of sci-fi. Even if we went to different universities, we somehow managed to stay in touch. Back then, a P10 bill (it was not a coin then; see how ancient we are already?) from Katipunan to UP would cover the fare of three students and still yield some change. And the telcoms were still giving a lot of free texts. Throughout college and thereafter, through countless *inuman*, curfew-busting movie marathons, bowling and book-swapping, we always found time to update each other on our separate lives. In between were a few dramas, some falling out with other friends and crazy birthday gifts, like red thongs and funny caricatures.

We were held together by our shared dream of becoming a gangster in our native Bicol, with Bernz, with her kingpin-like physique, as our leader, and Mich and me as her minions. Equipped with guns and wearing cool shades, we would dispense justice wherever it was denied. (Of course, we were kidding.)

At first, it was just what movies to watch, where to go bowling or the latest John Grisham or Sidney Sheldon books. Then it was whether we should have beer or gin, clean or on the rocks. And then book conversations ranging from Terry Pratchett to Neil Gaiman to J.K. Rowling to Michael Cunningham to Jhumpa Lahiri or to whoever won the Pulitzer or Booker recently, or even the Nobel for Literature.

Then, our conversations revolved around whether to resign from work or not, about electric and phone bills, and the tragicomic absurdity of the country's political landscape. Buying books became rare. Bowling was dropped. And we were making do with *bilog*. Clean.

We would wake up with a hangover and suddenly there were huge bills to pay and we cursed the government for raising taxes when the streets we walked on our way home remained unlit, unpaved and unsafe. Time hurled us forward and we were no longer the future. We are part of the disgruntled present, still being chided by our elders for having wasted our youth even as we can see clearly from the way the country is being run how wisdom is wasted on the old.

But we go on with our lives. There are deadlines to meet and board exams to pass. There's pressure to succeed. To prove our own worth. To build and make something of ourselves.

Dreams have become concrete and unreachable. I want my own pad. I want my own house. My own car. These are wishes that will soon turn to necessity when age and our entire clan pressure me to start breeding mini versions of myself. There's just no sweet transition from worrying about your academics to fretting about where to get money for bills to pay. It just happens. You search for answers. And then you realize that it is there for you to see. So you go pack your bags and leave, seeking a more decent income.

But before you go, you look back and you see many reasons to stay. And they're not the politicians who trumpet a 28-percent increase in OFW remittances or the political hasbeens who are pushing for Charter change. No, not the politicians who are more than happy to see you leave so that they will have more money to pocket. Not them. Just thinking of them makes you think of razing this country to the ground so that you can rebuild it from its ashes. When you look at the country you'd be leaving, you see the journey you've made. And because of that, you are willing to stick it out in this place of high crime rates and astronomical taxes.

Those memories littered with laughter, cigarette butts, and alcohol? You know when you reminisce that it's not about being sentimental. It's wondering how you got here. You see how national issues can affect you. And sometimes you wonder whether making a stand during Edsa II was a good idea, considering the replacement who's demanding that you get off the streets when it was the streets that put her in power. Ironic, isn't it?

You look back at the decisions you've made. And then you steel yourself, zip your bags and book a flight. You say your goodbyes, slowly and tenderly. You have dinner with your friends. You talk about books, film festivals and those DVDs in Quiapo that you'll miss, and you plan the next *inuman*. You relive all the good things that made this country bearable for you.

It was like that for us. We left Starbucks at around 10 p.m. Mich took the MRT, Bernz rode a bus, and I took a jeepney. We live in different zip codes. And soon, we'll be living in different country codes.

Chris Daniel Loza, 22, graduated from the Ateneo de Manila University last March with a major in Electronics and Communications Engineering and a minor in Philosophy.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

THEY SAID

Sexual terrorism

"The US berates the Philippines for being soft on terrorism. Will the US be soft on sexual terrorism? The Philippines and the world would be better off if they knew whether the US champions a double standard."

—Sen. Joker Arroyo, commenting on the alleged rape of a Filipina by six US Marines at the Subic Bay Freeport

The INQUIRER is a member of the
PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE
The National Association of Philippine Newspapers

Are values things of the past?

THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION has just concluded its Educators Congress in Davao City with the theme, "English, Science and Mathematics (ESM): The Cutting Edge of Schools and Communities."

Like *durian*, the famous fruit of this area in Mindanao, which draws conflicting comments from people, the theme drew varying opinions from stakeholders in the country's educational system.

Things augur well in the education front with the present crop of educators manning the DepEd, among them, Undersecretary and officer in charge Fe A. Hidalgo, Undersecretaries Ramon C. Bacani and Juan Miguel Luz (on leave). We are confident that, with their leadership, this biggest department in the government bureaucracy will initiate reforms similar to those undertaken by their predecessors, Sen. Raul Roco and Dr. Ricardo T. Gloria, as well as the great education secretaries of some decades ago.

The nation's top policymakers and implementors in education—a sector that includes the bureau directors, regional directors, assistant regional directors, division superintendents, assistant superintendents, regional, division and district supervisors, principals, head teachers and classroom teachers—have come up with brilliant ideas on how to improve the quality of education.

But some sectors are asking why only the three subjects are given much emphasis. How about Filipino, Social Studies, Music and Arts and most of all, Values Education? And we are particularly interested in Values Education since it is a shield—once instilled and nurtured in people's hearts and minds—against the temptations of graft and corruption. With graft and corruption eating up 25 percent of the national budget and with morality at its lowest ebb, we believe it is essential and urgent that Values Education be given emphasis in the school curriculum.

When President Macapagal-Arroyo issued Executive Order No. 314 creating the Presidential Commission on Values Formation, the DepEd was one of the agencies given a prominent role in its implementation. But why, of all subjects in the educational curriculum, Values Education is given least attention and importance? Do moral values now belong to the archives or dustbins of history?

—EUSEBIO S. SAN DIEGO, education supervisor, Values Education and Alternative Learning System, Misamis Street, Sto. Cristo, Bago Bantay, Quezon City

Overcoming the crisis of cynicism

CONGRATULATIONS TO CONRADO de Quiros for yet another excellent article. He is right: virtues and vices are formed by habit.

Some people have gotten so used to the corruptness of our political system that our standards of right and wrong have slid to the point where we would be willing to accept cheating in the elections, as long as the cheater "radiates" the aura of a winner.

I am so relieved that there are people like De Quiros who constantly hammer home the point that cheating is wrong, and that there's no end that can justify the means. What I fear the most is a submission by our people to this crisis of hope, of cynicism, of paralysis—the acceptance of "wrong" as if it's our fate.

We are the only Christian nation in Asia, and we have to show that we are a people led by a God who repudiates falsehood, the same God who inspired the Magnificat: "He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has put down the mighty from their thrones, and exalted the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things; and the rich He has sent empty away."

—ANNETTE PELKMANS, euroscope@hetnet.nl

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

Are there still corrupt officials?

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THE government's lifestyle check? There seems to be no more news about government officials and employees living a lavish lifestyle. Yet, we see so many of them roaming around in expensive cars (registered under the names of dummies, of course!) and living in expensive condos. What happened to the agencies created to check on their lifestyle?

I commend Vic del Fierro's letter, "Private sector-initiated lifestyle check, anyone?" (PDI, 11/3/05), strongly encouraging private organizations and NGOs to secretly trace and scrutinize the unexplained and enormous wealth of people in government. I believe that this is the only way we can curb or minimize corruption. There is no more *delicadeza* in the government.

Let us act and join hands to expose all irregularities in government. Take pictures or compile records of the business ventures, cars, condos, mansions, farms, rest houses of government officials, including their kids in exclusive, expensive schools.

Let us work to build a graft-free environment.

—ANTONIO NOEL DE LOS SANTOS, delossantos59@gmail.com

To the women of America

WE WERE DEEPLY SHOCKED, saddened and outraged when we read in the newspapers about the rape of a 22-year-old Filipina by six US Marines. She is our sister and she is your sister, too.

We grieved as we read each line of the news. And to this day we grieve over how our women are being victimized by the foolish US-led war on terror abrasively and callously imposed on nations and peoples. the accused American soldiers violated not only this unidentified woman; they defiled as well the entire Filipino nation.

Supposedly, the American soldiers were here for military exercises—to train our soldiers to fight terrorism. Alas! They wreaked terror upon a young woman!

Is this what President Bush wishes to happen in his reckless effort to counter terrorism? Is this what the Visiting Forces Agreement means? With this distressing incident, the VFA might as well mean "Vicious Rape of Filipinas" by Americans. After the Philippine government welcomed American forces as "visitors," allowing the use of our land, seas, air and other resources notwithstanding the people's objections, must we, Filipinos, pay this very dear price?

We believe that in your hearts, you do not wish your sister, daughter, mother, or a loved one to be raped and abused. But as long as the US government or any other government continues to wage unjust wars on peoples and nations, the tarnishing of people's rights will always take place.

Having seen the atrocities the US wars of aggression did in the past and in the present, we can only conclude that terrorism is all about invading nations for power, supremacy and control.

—NORMA P. DOLLAGA, general secretary, Kasimbayan Women's Collective, 3/F NCCP, 879 Edsa, Quezon City, kasimbyn@tri-isys.com

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@ inquirer.com.ph

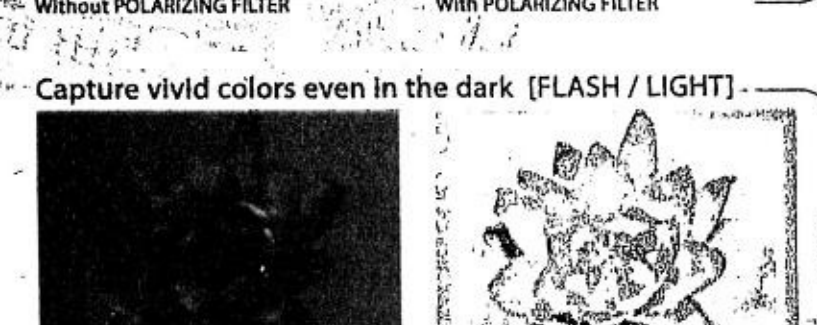
Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

SONY

like.no.other™

Enhance your Shooting Experience with Sony Original Accessories

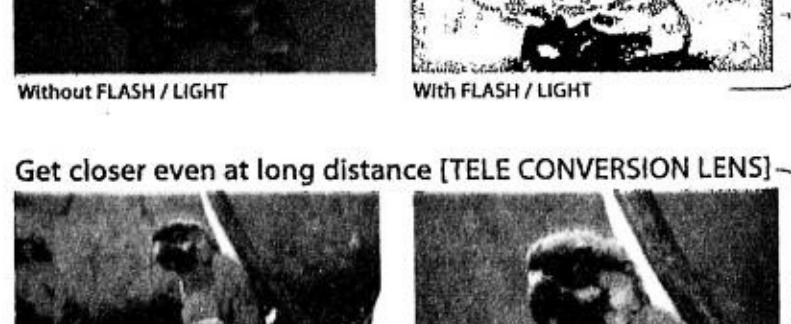
Avoid those unwanted glares [POLARIZING FILTER]



Without POLARIZING FILTER

With POLARIZING FILTER

Capture vivid colors even in the dark [FLASH / LIGHT]



Without FLASH / LIGHT

With FLASH / LIGHT

Get closer even at long distance [TELE CONVERSION LENS]

Without TELE CONVERSION LENS

With TELE CONVERSION LENS

Sony Digital Imaging Accessories

Choose among the wide variety of available accesories for your Handycam. Whether it be FILTERS, LENSES and LIGHTS that let you capture shots of your subjects in more detail and beauty, CARRYING CASES, BATTERIES, MICROPHONES, MARINE PACKS, TRIPODS-- you are sure to enhance your shooting experience.

IMAGING GEAR

Sony Customer Contact Center: (02) 878-7600 Info.sph@ap.sony.com

www.sony.com.ph

Exclusively Distributed by: Sony Philippines Inc. - 20th Flr. Tower 1, 6766 The Enterprise Center, Ayala Avenue cor. Paseo de Roxas, Makati City, 1226 PHILIPPINES.

Sony Christmas Treasures 2005

Hurry!!! Grab unbeatable offers & promos this season only from Sony!

Call us to get hold of a FREE copy of Sony's promo catalogue at 878-7600 or visit our website at www.sony.com.ph!

Promo period: November 1, 2005 to January 15, 2006. See flyers for details.

Per DTI NCR Permit No. 2519 Series of 2005

Deck the halls with boughs of holly …

'Tis the Season to Own a Sony!

Sony Philippines is putting on the cloak of Santa Claus this year as it presents its Sony Christmas Treasures Promo!

With the Sony Christmas Treasures Promo, you can get amazing deals when you buy your Sony products in authorized Sony outlets nationwide. Unleash the full potential of your Cyber-shot and Handycam as Sony offers other promos, on top of the 3-year warranty for all camera models, such as unbeatable accessory gift certificates and stylish accessories. Or upsize your viewing pleasure with a purchase of Sony Grand Wega or Bravia bundled with installment packages. Then rev up your listening experience as Sony's hi-fi and portable audio products now come available with dazzling audio accessories! So you better not pout, better not cry, Sony is now bringing you a sleigh-full of Yuletide treats!

Learn more about Sony's newest products as it tours your friendly neighborhood malls. For those in Metro Manila, look out for Sony's year-end exhibits in Shangri-La Mall (Nov 10 to 23), SM Megamall (Nov 17 to 30), SM North Edsa (Nov 24 to Dec 7), and SM Makati (Nov 30 to Dec 13). There is also an early Christmas treat to shoppers as Sony BMG artists perform live at the Glorietta Activity Center on December 20 with special numbers from Jimmy Bondoc, 6 Cycle Mind, Brownman Revival and Cueshe at 7:00 PM. However, if you're in the Visayas Region, look out for Sony when it arrives in Robinsons Bacolod (Nov 19 to 25) for true holiday offers. And for our folks in Mindanao, better watch-out for Sony as it brings in some Christmas cheer to Limketkai Mall in Cagayan (Nov 14 to 28) and SM Davao (Nov 28 to Dec 4). Keep your eyes peeled for more of Sony's year-end exhibits coming your way!

For schedules and other mall exhibit details, visit our website at www.sony.com.ph. For more details on the on-going promos and special offers being offered in authorized Sony outlets, you may call Sony's Customer Contact Center at 878-7600 or go to the nearest Sony Square at Gateway Mall, Megamall, or Park Square.

ADV'T

INQBOX Question of the Week

Garci's back ! Your message to Garci ?

Win this *Inquirer shirt

Senders of d best 20 texts as publishd in Tuesday's INQBOX wil each receiv an *Inquirer Shirt! U

Key in: inquirer box name/age/city/message. Text your answers to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart). (Maximum of 160 characters)

*Metro Manila winners can call Jane at 8978608 local 335. Provincial winners can text: inquirer ad name/age/city/mailing address to 2207 or 283 as their prizes will be mailed to them

INQUIRER Visayas

E-mail: inq_cebu@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Edralyn L. Benedicto

Soldier becomes personal with war

By Jhunnex Napallacan and Nestor P. Burgos Jr.

PFC RICHARD BASLOT could not wait for the bullet wound in his leg to heal. He is anxious to return to combat duty.

This time, the reason is personal. He wants to avenge the death of a close friend, who was one of the nine soldiers killed in an ambush staged by the New People's Army (NPA) in Calinog town in Iloilo on Saturday.

"Gusto gyud ko makabalos ug gusto kong maundang na sila (I want to get revenge and I want to stop them)," Baslot, 25, said in an interview on Tuesday in his bed at the Armed Forces Central Command Hospital in Barangay Apas, Cebu City.

Baslot, who was among the 20 soldiers wounded in the attack, said he wanted to be stronger so he could exact justice for the death of his friend, Pfc Dyves Villamor, 23, from Davao.

Villamor's words, before he and several other soldiers boarded an Elf truck in Barangay Agcalaca in Calinog, were still fresh in Baslot's mind. "I will miss you," Baslot recalled Villamor as telling him.

The words meant nothing to Baslot as he and the other soldiers boarded the truck, one of two vehicles that would take the group back to the 47th Infantry Battalion's headquarters in Barangay Ligbot, Calinog. Little did Baslot know that those would be Villamor's last words to him.

Upon reaching an uphill area in Sitio Simadbad, Barangay Mambiranan, 7 km from the town proper, the rebels set off two land mines, hitting the Elf truck. Baslot was thrown off from the vehicle and landed in the crater created by the explosion.

Award

When he regained consciousness a few minutes later, Baslot said he saw Villamor's body. He cried.

Baslot said he took his firearm and started firing at the guerrillas. He moved to an elevated area only to realize that the attackers were positioned there. He was hit in the leg, but he continued firing until the guerrillas retreated, he said.

Baslot was among the nine soldiers who received "wounded personnel" medals on Tuesday from Lt. Gen. Emmanuel Teodosio, Centcom chief.

The other awardees were Cpl Joel Octaviano and Privates First Class Rodel Jauod, Michael Camutuhan, Charlito James, Joel Ryan Delmonte, Nazzer Abellar, Erben Gerona and Adonis Cabalhin.

Those who were seriously wounded were brought by a C-130 military plane to the AFP Medical Center in Quezon City. They were SSgt Gil Galsim; Corporals Mario Pascua, Ronnie Espiritu and Dante Elegores; and Privates First Class Rodrigo Agod, William Onias, Christian Ventero and Michael Fernandez.

Col. Gregorio Fajardo, commander of the Army's Task Force Panay, said the eight soldiers would be better off there with better facilities and care.

Three other wounded soldiers—Privates First Class Raul Fuentes, Raymond Lim and Romy Barcoma—are back on duty at the 3rd Infantry Division headquarters in Camp Macario Peralta in Jamindan town, Capiz, he said.

Responsibility

The NPA's Coronacion "Waling-Waling" Chiva Command has owned up the ambush that resulted in the biggest number of casualties among government troops in the Visayas in the last two years.

Among those killed, five—Sgt. Rommel Panes, Cpl. Mario Pelayo and Privates First Class James Brian Angeles and Villamor—belonged to the elite First Scout Ranger Battalion under Lt. Col. Noel Buan, who was held captive for 16 months by communist rebels until his release in April 2001.

The others were Staff Sergeants Alexander Luiz, Melquidez Montemayor, Paterno Villorente, and Pfc Rosebert No-ol, all of the 47th IB.

In an e-mailed statement issued by Julian Paisano, who identified himself as the NPA command's spokesperson, the guerrillas said the attack was in response to continued military operations in hinterland villages "which have caused fear and destroyed the livelihood of the people."

Paisano claimed that members of the 47th IB and the Scout Rangers were known to have committed human rights abuses in areas where they are assigned. He added that the ambush succeeded because of the "widespread support of the people."

He called on the soldiers to leave the military service and not follow "illegal and immoral" orders from their superiors.

Fajardo said the guerrillas were able to stage the ambush because no one in the barangay reported the presence of the rebels and the land mines. "That is the first question. Who were (the rebels') contacts? Why was there no report?" he said in an earlier telephone interview.

No support

Barangay chairs Renato Casinao of Datagan and Nestor Planas of Mambiranan said the military should not blame them for its losses.

"Our people are tense because they could be subjected to military reprisals because they are being suspected of aiding the rebels," said Casinao, whose village is next to Mambiranan.

He said the soldiers had been conducting operations in his village a week before the ambush but they also failed to detect the presence of the guerrillas or the land mines.

"We saw no rebels and when they passed by our village, we always inform the soldiers," Casinao said.

On Tuesday, Casinao and Planas met with provincial board member Angel Briones, president of the Provincial League of Barangay Captains, to refute allegations that village officials were involved in the ambush.

Planas said that if anyone of the 800 people in his barangay was aware of the land mines, they would have already left the area.

Casinao urged the military to investigate first what really happened. "If they had lapses, it is not our fault. Officials like us report only what we see or what our people report to us," he said.

Briones said the military "should be specific" and file the appropriate charges in court if they had sufficient evidence against any of the officials or residents.

TWO LAND MINES set up by the New People's Army in Sitio Simadbad, Barangay Mambiranan, Calinog, Iloilo hit a truck carrying soldiers killing nine and wounding 20 of them. ARNOLD ALMACEN

PHILIPPINE SOCIETY OF OTOLARYNGOLOGY-HEAD AND NECK SURGERY, INC.

Messages

My warmest greetings to the officers and members of the **Philippine Society of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, Inc.** on your 49th *Annual Convention.*

Your theme, *"Head and Neck Cancer: Grab the Crab, Crush Cancer!"* reflects your commitment to provide the best possible healthcare for cancer patients. As specialists in otolaryngology, your efforts to upgrade your competencies and to excel in your chosen field are vital to our quest for better health for our growing population.

Ensuring a productive life for our countrymen is our overriding mission. I hope this event will contribute to the advancement of the medical profession and to better health care in our communities. More power and Mabuhay!

(sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

It is with great honor and pleasure to invite you to the 49th Annual Convention of the PSO-HNS, INC.

The theme: Head and Neck Cancer:Grab the Crab!!!" with world-renowned speakers who will advance our knowledge in our relentless pursuit to find the cure for head and neck cancer. May I enjoin you to grab this opportunity and "Grab the Crab!!!" MABUHAY !

(sgd.) Felix P . Nolasco, MD
President, PSO-HNS

Welcome to this pioneering concept of our 49th Annual Convention which tackles the theme: **"Head and Neck Cancer: Grab the Crab!!! Crush Cancer!!!"**

It promises to be a good combination of scientific discussion, and social activities. We have invited well-known international authorities in the field to share us the latest information and strategies. The four day event will elevate us to an atmosphere of cerebral fulfillment and strengthen our camaraderie and bring us together as one big family.

(sgd.) Gil M. Vicente, MD
Over-All Chairman, Annual Convention Committee 2005

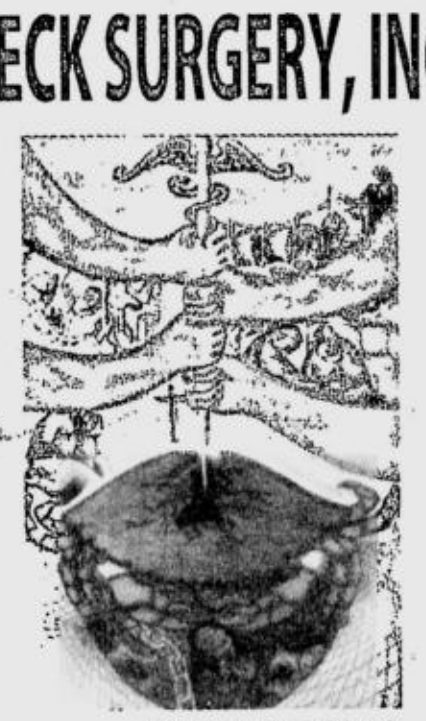
49th ANNUAL CONVENTION

The Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel
November 29 - December 02, 2005

Theme : Head and Neck Cancer: "Grab the Crab, Crush Cancer"

GUEST OF HONOR
Prof. Eugene Myers, MD
Pennsylvania, USA
SPECIAL LECTURER
Corazon Collantes-Jose, MD
KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Ms. Kara Magsanoc-Alikpala
BREAKFAST FORUM SPEAKERS
Mr. Francis Kong
Edgardo Juan Tolentino, MD
FOREIGN GUEST FACULTY :
Ashok Shaha, MD (USA)
Kate Dinshaw, MD (India)
Lim Cheung, MD (Hong Kong)
Lee Kawo, MD (Taiwan)
Ms. Petra Karlsson (Denmark)
Ms. Sonja Kremer (Germany)
John Newall, MClinAud (Australia)
Mr. Mike Dittman (Denmark)
LOCAL GUEST FACULTY :
Eduardo Banzon, MD
Priscilla Caguioa, MD
Johanna Patricia Cañal, MD
Gerardo Tomas Cornelio, MD
Rafael Consunji, MD
Leonila Dans, MD
Romulo de Villa, MD
Rolando de la Eva, MD
Angel de Guzman, MD
Ruth Marie Divinagracia, MD
Edilberto Fragante, MD
Jorge Ignacio, MD
Ruben Kasala, MD
Michael Mejia, MD
Corazon Ngelangel, MD
Roberto Pangan, MD, DMD
Isidro Sia, MD
Jaime Galvez Tan, MD
Lilian Villafuerte, MD

SCIENTIFIC TOPICS
Head and Neck Cancers Today
Conservation Surgery for Laryngeal Cancer
Ear and Temporal Bone CA: Radiotherapy, Surgical Management and Reconstruction
Microsurgical Pressing Technique:
Contemporary Management of Thyroid Cancer
Management of Difficult Thyroids
Management of the N3 Neck
Salivary Gland Cancer Symposium
Management of Ameloblastoma
Quality of Life Issues in the Management of Head and Neck Cancer Patients
Radiotherapy for Head & Neck CA
Management of Oral Cavity CA
Nutritional Oncology and Molecular Oncology, Complementary Medicine
Nasopharyngeal Cancer
Endoscopic Management of Maxillofacial Fractures
Inverting Papilloma Forum
Dilemma in Sleep Disordered Breathing
Precise Excision of Vocal Fold Nodules
Facial Plastic Surgery Symposium
Coping and Living With Cancer



Theme Art by Noel N. Fulgencio

PSO-HNS Mission:
To engage in the relentless pursuit of excellence in service, training, research and public information for all the people of the Philippines with professionalism, dignity, compassion and honesty; and to promote camaraderie among its members

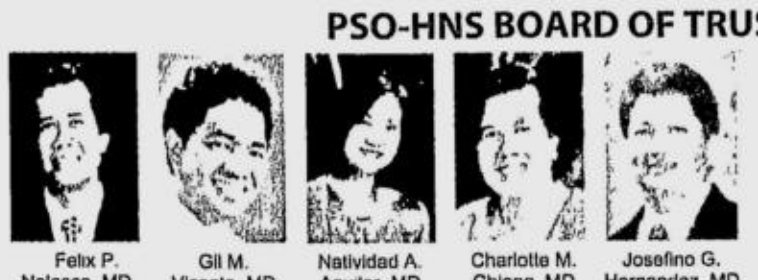
PSO-HNS Vision:
By the year 2010, the PSO-HNS will be an internationally recognized association of Otolaryngologist-Head and Neck Surgeons dedicated to advancing the art and science in the field of education, training and research.

Annual Convention Organizing Committee

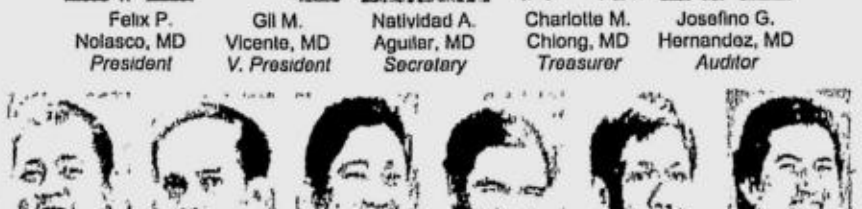
Honorary Chairman : Felix P. Nolasco, MD
Overall Chairman : Gil M. Vicente, MD
Exec. Officers : Natividad A. Aguilar, MD
Alfredo Q. Y. Pontejos, Jr., MD

SCIENTIFIC
Joselito F. David, MD
Jesus Randy O. Canal, MD,
Samantha S. Castaneda, MD
WAYS AND MEANS
Jose A. Malanyaon, Jr., MD
Ma. Fita P. Guzman, MD
Francisco A. Victoria, MD
BOOTHS AND EXHIBITS
Antonio H. Chua, MD
Joseph Raymond S. Tapang, MD
REGISTRATION
Manuel Tomas I. Colmenar, MD
Rodolfo E. Rivera, MD
Marcelino S. Tuaño, MD
PUBLICITY
Joel A. Romualdez, MD
Frederick Y. Hawson, MD
PHYSICAL/TECH ARRANGEMENTS
Benjamin S.A. Campomanes, MD
SOCIALS
Mary Arlene A. Bongosia, MD
Cecille C. Capinpin, MD
DOCUMENTATION
Ray U. Casile, MD
Keith Romeo A. Aguilera, MD
SOUVENIR PROGRAMME
Bernardo D. Dimacali, MD
SPORTS
Virgilio R. de Gracia, MD
Arsenio L. Pascual, MD

PSO-HNS BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2005



Felix P. Nolasco, MD *President* | Gil M. Vicente, MD *V. President* | Natividad A. Aguilar, MD *Secretary* | Charlotte M. Chiong, MD *Treasurer* | Josefino G. Hernandez, MD *Auditor*



Jesus Randy O. Cañal, MD *Director* | Jacob S. Matubis, MD *Director* | Virgilio R. De Gracia, MD *Director* | Alfredo Q. Y. Pontejos, MD *Director* | Romeo L. Villarta, MD *Director* | Jose A. Malanyaon, MD *Director*

Immediate Past President:
Cesar V.Villafuerte, Jr., MD

PBO-HNS President:
Abelardo B. Perez, MD

CHAPTER PRESIDENTS:

Northern Luzon : Loule V. Medenilla, MD
Southern-Tagalog : Alexander C. Cabungcal, MD
Bicol : Diosdado C. Uy, MD
Eastern Visayas : Eduardo R. Arcenas, MD
Western Visayas : Teodoro L. Jardeleza, MD
Southeast Mindanao : Jose Antonio M. Santos, MD
Northwest Mindanao : Jesus M. Jardin, MD

UNITED LABORATORIES, INC.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2005

NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU
Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
10 Happy Glen Loop, Baguio City
Tel. No. (074)443-9255
Fax No. (074)443-8971
E-mail: lnq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU
23 Aurora St., Old Albay District
Legazpi City
Tel. No. (052) 820-8402
Fax No. (052) 820-1274
E-mail: lnq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

Across the **NATION**

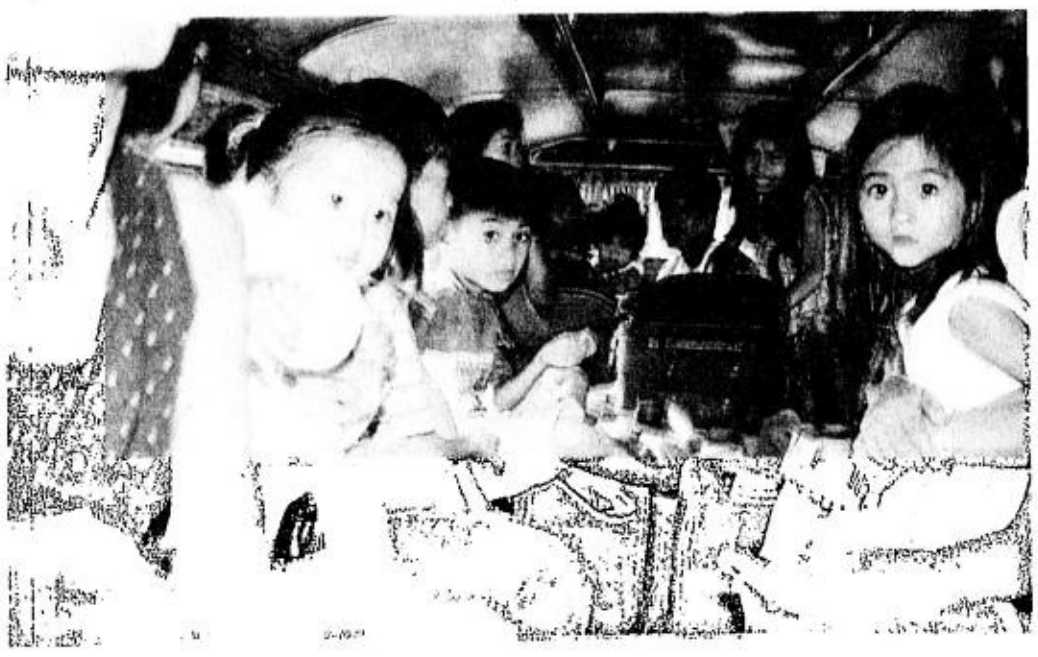
E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph

Assistant Editor **Tony Bergonia**

VISAYAS BUREAU
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346/233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail: lnq_cebu@inquirer.com.ph

MINDANAO BUREAU
FEP Printing Corp. Bldg.
Ma-a Road, Davao City
Tel. No. (082)244-1770 to 71
Fax No. (082)244-1771
E-mail: lnq_davao@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback:
inquirer atn name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)



CHILDREN and their parents, some still managing to smile, make a jeep their temporary home as they fled clashes between government soldiers and communist gunmen in Candelaria village in Quezon. The fighting has disrupted classes and the lives of the villagers, who fled as sounds of gunfire drew nearer their homes. DELFIN MALLARI/PDI SOUTHERN LUZON

Clashes drive more Quezon folk fleeing

FIGHTING CONTINUED BE-tween communist gunmen and government soldiers in several Quezon villages, forcing more families to flee out of fear of getting caught in the crossfire.

In a clash in a village in Sariaya, Quezon, at least three persons were killed – an Army soldier, a civilian and a suspected communist gunman.

The fighting stopped the holding of classes in public schools in Candelaria town.

Remedios Carsocho, a Candelaria school teacher, said the fighting is scaring teachers and school children.

"I should be in school teaching my students. But now here I am sleeping in a jeep together with my family and neighbors," Carsocho said.

She was one of the evacuees from the mountain village of Concepcion Pinagbakuran in Sariaya town.

A Grade 4 pupil said she misses school.

"By this time, we should be playing and enjoying our recess. I'm afraid," said Angela Reyes, also a resident of Concepcion Uno.

Classes in all schools in Candelaria have been suspended since Tuesday.

Mobile home

The evacuees were in three jeeps parked near the gate of Las Palmas Subdivision along the Maharlika Highway yesterday.

They said they left their homes Thursday evening when they heard bursts of gunfire getting closer.

"The children were already crying in fear," one of the villagers said.

Col. Roland Detabali, 202nd Army Infantry Brigade commander, said two Army soldiers were wounded in the clash in Sariaya with communist gunmen.

The bodies of the Army soldier and the unidentified communist gunman were brought to the headquarters of the military's Southern Luzon Command (Solcom) in Camp Nakar.

Lt. Gen. Pedro Cabuay Jr., Solcom head, expressed confidence that the gunmen would soon lose ammunition and be overtaken by fatigue.

"They are now losing steam," he said.

A civilian was killed when soldiers clashed with a group of about 40 communist gunmen who were trying to flee aboard a jeep in a Candelaria village.

The gunmen withdrew to Mt. Banahaw.

Escape tactic

Police said one of the gunmen hired vehicles purportedly to transport evacuees in Barangay Mangilag Norte.

But villagers told soldiers the vehicles carried men believed to be guerrillas, prompting the soldiers to set up a blocking force on the Maharlika Highway.

Soldiers said the guerrillas retreated after seeing they were outnumbered by government forces.

Police quoted the drivers of the vehicles as saying they were paid P1,000 supposedly to fetch evacuees.

But upon reaching Mangilag Sur village, a group of armed men, instead of evacuees, boarded the vehicles.

Senior Insp. Allen Rae Co, Candelaria police chief, said the drivers were still in a state of shock and unavailable for interview.

Cabuay said more NPA casualties, dead and injured, would soon be recovered by government forces.

He reiterated his offer of a P10,000 reward to anyone who could lead soldiers to the bodies of fallen guerrillas.

"Our aim is to give a decent burial for the slain rebels," he said.

Gregorio Rosal, communist spokesman, condemned the reward offer.

Body count

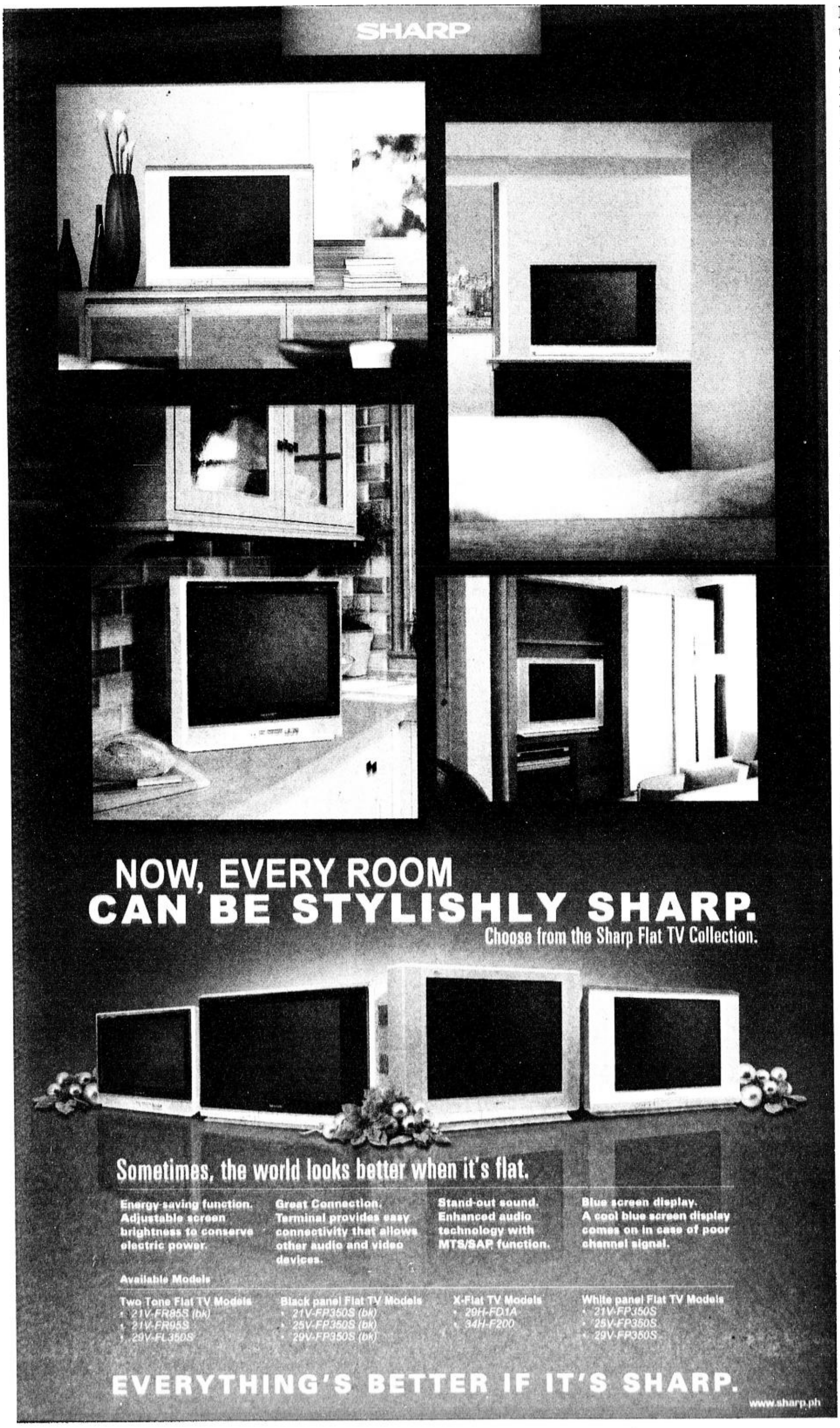
"That's part of the sinister and desperate plan by the military to produce body counts at all cost to save face. They could just shoot anybody and present it later as NPA," Rosal said in a mobile phone interview.

Cabuay also rejected calls for the military to declare a Christmas ceasefire.

"The call will be on me...We are willing to negotiate but for the surrender of the NPA. They are now cornered and have nowhere to go," the general said.

He said two suspected guerrillas, a man and a woman, were also captured and are now being interrogated.

Police said the fleeing guerrillas are part of the group that attacked members of the Tiaong mobile patrol team on Sunday. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*



New war games planned anew in North Cotabato

COTABATO CITY—NEW WAR games between the Philippines and the United States would be held in North Cotabato in January next year, the military announced yesterday.

Col. Ruperto Pabustan, commander of the Army's 602nd Infantry Brigade based in Carmen town, said a battalion of Filipino soldiers and a company size of American troopers will participate in the exercises.

Pabustan said to avoid conflict with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), which maintains a presence in Carmen, the antiterror exercises would be confined to the 200-hectare area that his command's camp occupies.

"There will be crash training on antiterrorism campaign ...," he said.

Pabustan said the only operations which would be held outside the camp are those concerning humanitarian missions.

The January war game, dubbed Balance Piston, would be the second for Americans in Carmen.

Last year, a total of 156 Filipino soldiers and at least 25 American soldiers participated in the exercises.

During the exercises, a Filipino soldier was killed when his rifle accidentally went off while another was injured when he was hit by a bullet during live fire training.

Asked what the provincial government plans to do to avoid incidents similar to the Subic rape case, Gov. Emmanuel Piñol said in a jest: "Let's cut their organs."

North Cotabato is part of Central Mindanao where soldiers are hunting down terror suspects allied with the Jemaah Islamiyah.

These include the Abu Sayyaf and its local ally, the Pentagon gang.

The Pentagon gang is composed of former Moro rebels, who have resorted to extortion and kidnapping to raise funds.

Among previous victims include Italian missionaries.

The gang has demanded P10 million for the safe release of its latest victim, 69-year-old businessman Bravick Araral.

Araral was snatched near his farm in Libungan, North Cotabato on Monday.

Marine Brig. Gen. Ben Dolorfino said the victim was brought by his captors near Kabuntalan, Maguindanao.

Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesperson, said they already deployed spies to help government security forces recover the victim.

"Our informants revealed that the kidnappers are indeed demanding such amount but they lowered it to P3 million," he said.

Last month, the MILF recovered a four-year-old boy from the hands of the Pentagon. *Jeoffrey Maitem, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

DISTANT GOAL RAFFY LERMA/PDI PHOTO

An activist of the environment protection group Greenpeace approaches the coal-fired power plant of Masinloc in Zambales, scene of a recent attack against Greenpeace members who are campaigning for a stop to the operations of coal plants.

Marcelo's swan song: Clear Baguio BIR execs

BAGUIO CITY—ONE OF RE-signed Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo's last acts was to release a year-old resolution that cleared Bureau of Internal Revenue officials from a series of tax scandals that rocked Baguio in 2002, the INQUIRER learned.

Marcelo approved only this month the Nov. 26, 2004 recommendation of the Luzon Ombudsman to junk graft charges filed against former BIR Cordillera Director Estrella Martinez and several tax officers for allegedly reducing the estate taxes of a prominent Baguio family, the sales tax of a P143-million downtown Baguio property, and the revenue taxes of a firm that supplies meals to the Texas Instruments Philippines Inc. (Tipi).

Part of the Ombudsman's decision relied on the BIR officials' testimony that a computer error was the culprit for the wrong assessment figures that were applied to some of these taxpayers.

A radio broadcaster based in Manila sued Martinez; Amando Navarro, revenue district officer; Ruby Giron, BIR Cordillera assistant chief for assessment; and three tax examiners for conspiring to reduce the taxes of the estate of Vicenta and Gelacio Munsayac; the Copper Kettle catering firm of Jeanne and Dominador Menguito; and Alberto Lopez, owner of a building here.

Francisco Calado, a reporter of Manila Broadcasting Corp.'s dzRH, said the officials reduced the value of the Lopez property on Session Road, which was sold for a much lower price of P143 million to JP Leap Inc. in 2001. supposedly to escape high capital gains tax.

He said the same officials "exonerated" Copper Kettle from paying its value added tax when it was assessed under P9 million for tax deficiencies covering 1991 to 1997.

Calado said Martinez and the rest of the BIR officials took sides when they determined the tax liability of the Munsayac estate, which was the subject of a suit among its heirs.

He presented the Ombudsman with documents that suggested that BIR under assessed the P150 million tax deficiency to only P28 million.

Martinez and the BIR officials cited a "computer flaw" which caused the agency to tax the family for a much lower value of assets.

"Apparently, some mathematical processes that were encoded in the computer did not operate as intended," they said.

Marcelo and Victor Fernandez, deputy Ombudsman for Luzon, bought that argument when they dismissed the charges against the BIR officials.

Giron said the Ombudsman's ruling would protect BIR officials, who expect more litigation as they implement the expanded Value Added Tax.

The ruling said "to attribute criminal accountability [to government workers] for every erroneous ruling or decision they render ... would be nothing short of harassment ..." *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Violent conflict of tribes takes odd turn

BONTOC, MT. PROVINCE—THE wave of tribal-related violence here took a weird turn when pigs became the recent victims.

Issag Attong, a member of the Basao tribe in nearby Tinglayan, Kalinga, admitted stealing four pigs from October to November this year.

It was the way the crimes were made that earned the ire of the people here. The pigs were all beheaded and the heads and entrails were left in the pen while the carcass was taken.

Attong, who is described as illiterate and in his middle 20s, pleaded guilty to the charge.

Attong could face from six months to a year in jail for the theft.

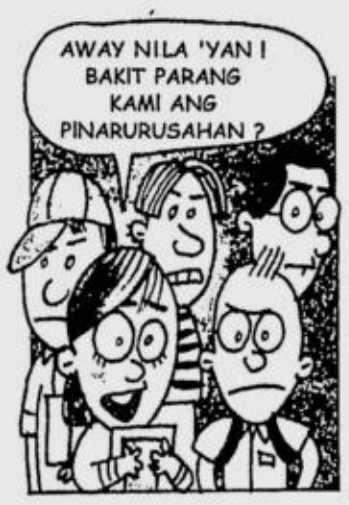
This came after Gov. Maximo Dalog advised seven students of the Mt. Province State Polytechnic College (MPSPC), from the Basao tribe, not to enroll there this semester to prevent further violence between tribe members and villagers in Kalinga.

A resident of Sagada town in Mt. Province was stabbed 32 times on Sep. 2 and his body was left at the provincial capitol here. The suspects, who came from Basao, were arrested but escaped from the Tinglayan jail in Kalinga.

Dalog said he was studying 26 crime cases allegedly perpetrated by Kalinga residents particularly those from the Basao tribe.

He said he met two weeks ago with Mayors Robert Baaten of Sagada, Alfonso Kiat-ong of Bontoc, and Johnny Maymaya of Tinglayan, who advised him to ban the seven Basao students from MPSPC.

Rev. Luis Aoas, a Lutheran minister who belongs to the Basao tribe, said the decision to ban the students was discriminatory. *Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*



Chayote becomes green gold for Benguet folk

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—AT 50 centavos to P3 a kilogram, the chayote could hardly glitter as the province's "hanging green gold."

But the vegetable's untapped medical potentials and processed by-products could be the hidden gold mine that farmers could cash in on, given the proper marketing strategy, said Dr. Lita Colting of the Benguet State University (BSU) and chair of the Benguet Tourism Council.

This week's chayote festival marking the province's 105th foundation day celebration has unveiled chayote's vast marketing and curative potentials.

Nine processed chayote products, from soap and pickles to wine and cleansing juice, and literatures on chayote's healing properties were displayed to amaze even farmers who got used to merely selling the crop in volumes at the vegetable trading post here.

Visitors were also treated to 60 food preparations out of chayote.

Colting said chayote (Sechium edulte) looks so common and ordinary as a crop compared to carrots, potatoes and cabbages.

"Farmers often treat chayote as food or viand, unaware of its promising potentials. They do not know how to find ways to make use of their chayote wastes," she said.

But she said foreign studies found that concoctions from chayote fruits and leaves could maintain a balanced urinary system.

"The studies have shown that the [chayote] fruits could dissolve kidney stones and could complement treatment for arteriosclerosis and hypertension," Colting said.

She also cited a pharmacological study that confirmed chayote's "diuretic, cardiovascular and anti-inflammatory properties."

Rogel Marsan, of Cosmic Farms here, said the plant's leaves are a good source of fertilizer for being rich in nitrogen, potassium and phosphorous.

Colting lamented the lack of initiative by businessmen to invest in chayote processing.

"Processing is mostly home based but what we need is a massive capital initiative to maximize chayote's potentials," she said.

The government's support is ready to be tapped anytime to establish an institutionalized chayote processing industry, she said.

Colting said those interested could coordinate with the following agencies to promote a viable chayote processing industry: BSU, Department of Science and Technology and the Department of Trade and Industry. *Delmar Cariño, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

11 held on Boracay for fake, tampered cards

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—POLICE DETAINED 11 Filipino tourists on Boracay Island on Tuesday for allegedly using fake or tampered credit cards to pay for P635,000 in bills.

The group allegedly went on a shopping spree for two days before shop owners discovered the cards to be invalid and complained to the police, said Supt. Remigio Gregorio, chief of the Boracay Special Protection Unit (BSPU).

They were arrested after the Boracay Tourist Center, which serves as a clearing house for credit cards, reported the alleged use of fake or tampered credit cards.

The cards include those issued by Visa, Mastercard and American Express, said Gregorio.

"We believed that there was intent to defraud the business owners using the credit cards," said Gregorio in a telephone interview.

He said eight of the suspects were released on Thursday night after the Tourism Center and other complainants decided not to pursue the filing of criminal charges and executed affidavits of desistance.

Lawyer Stephen Arceño, who represents some of the suspects, said his clients agreed to pay the shops, restaurants and resorts. He declined to identify his clients.

But Gregorio said police would pursue the charges against three of the suspects—Sean Eric Pineda, 30; Karen Lopez, 28; and Andrew Tan Go, 27.

He said they recovered from their possession suspected fake or tampered credit cards.

The Aklan Provincial Prosecutor's Office was expected yesterday to file charges against the three.

The three suspects will be detained in the capital town of Kalibo in Aklan if they fail to post a P60,000 bail bond each.

ERIK DE CASTRO/REUTERS

TRANSPARENCY is apparently needed in an industry that also employs children, like this crude mining site in Mt. Diwalwal.

Mining group to join transparency crusade

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—THE PHILIPpine Chamber of Mines is joining a United Kingdom-led crusade to open up the world mining industry to public scrutiny, amid strong resistance to mining revitalization in developing countries, according to Benjamin Philip Romualdez, chamber president.

Romualdez said the country would take part in the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative of British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

He described the initiative as a "simple idea" that requires the Arroyo administration and the country's 187 mining firms to publish audited figures of "what they make, of what they pay to the government, and what government receives to see if there are any discrepancies."

According to the latest Fraser survey on the competitiveness of 64 mineral-rich countries, which was rated by 259 mine firms, the Philippines' new tax regime suited business' demand for fiscal stability. The country is applying an expanded value added tax that now covers power and fuel.

But the survey noted a downtrend in foreign investor confidence because of the country's political instability, and investor uncertainties in the administration's ability to enforce its policy for mining.

Transparency initiative

The London transparency initiative is one of the non-traditional approaches that Australian mining consultant Graeme Deegan advised the mining industry to take during the 52nd Mine Safety and Environment Conference here, to address the industry's "bad boy" image and "build investor confidence."

Deegan said Philippine mines should be able to present to the public both "wins and losses" as they revive their operations.

The country has substantial mineral assets but it should also admit that the operations would harm the environment, Deegan told the conference.

He said the industry players should start testing their operations through simulations to detect how towns would react to their presence.

Romualdez said the Association of Southeast Asian Nations has credited the Philippines for "leading the way in how mining should be revitalized in the region."

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

A Fusion of Life's Simple Pleasures

The comforts of high countryside living, the convenience of commercial presence, and the practicality of urban location all in one masterplanned community.

LaMirada
ROYALE
PRIME RESIDENTIAL ESTATES
PLARIDEL, BULACAN

- 20% Discount on minimum required downpayment
- Fully-developed Clubhouse
- House & lot packages available featuring: "The Andrea" house model

Fully-operational clubhouse

Near the Walter Mart shopping center

DEVELOPER S.TA.LUCIA Realty & Development, Inc.

EXCLUSIVE MARKETING NETWORK ROYALE HOMES MARKETING CORPORATION

Contact us: **(02) 723-4014 / 726-4317 / (044) 795-2933**
Text us your inquiries: **lamirada_(your name)_cell no.** and send to **2960**
www.royalehomes.com.ph

AirAsia
Now Everyone Can Fly

Hello 2006

Have a flying start to the new year!

Fly from **Clark (Manila)**

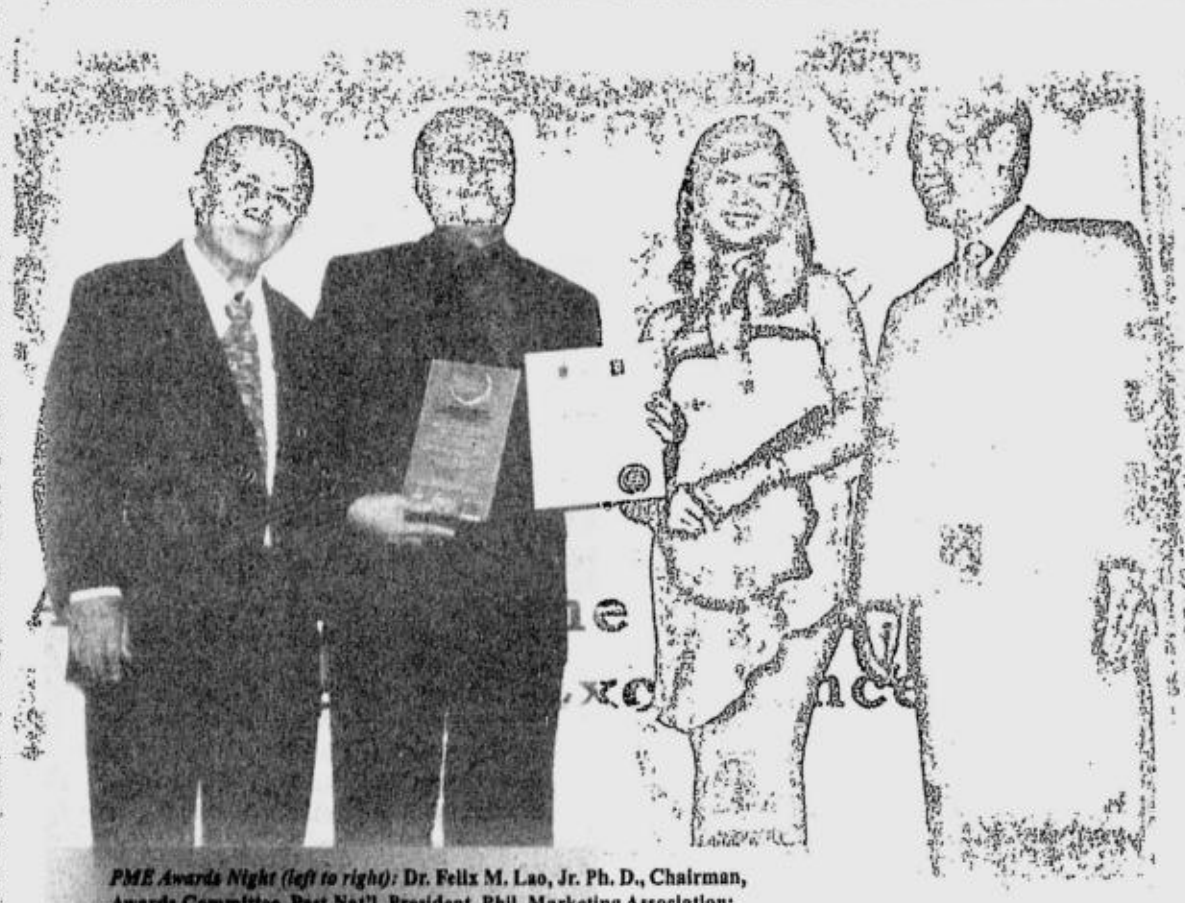
K. Kinabalu
from PHP **159** one way

Kuala Lumpur
from PHP **1,119** one way

Booking Period: **24 Nov - 6 Dec 2005** Travel Period: **1 - 24 Jan 2006**

buy online: **www.airasia.com**
buy via mobile: **mobile.airasia.com**
nationwide call centre: **(632) 8141 633**

BOTIKA NG BAYAN
Gamot na Mabisa at Abot-kaya
MOST OUTSTANDING ACCREDITED DRUG STORE IN THE PHILIPPINES*



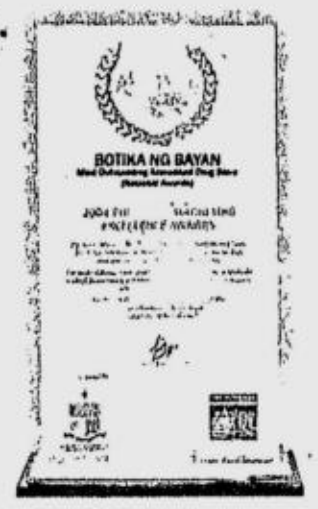
PME Awards Night (left to right): Dr. Felix M. Lao, Jr. Ph. D., Chairman, Awards Committee, Past Nat'l. President, Phil. Marketing Association; Mr. Pol Dimerin, PITC VP, Pharmaceuticals; Ms. Melanie Marquez; Sec. Obet Pagdanganan, Chairman and President, PITC.

Access to quality medicines at affordable prices is a basic right of all Filipinos. This is what the government's *Botika ng Bayan* program seeks to achieve in partnership with the private sector.

Tangkilikin po natin ang *Botika ng Bayan!*
Ito ang sagot sa sobrang mahal na gamot.

Maraming Salamat po!

Sec. Roberto M. Pagdanganan
Chairman & President
Philippine International Trading Corporation



**Awarded by the Philippine Marketing Excellence Award Institute.*

BOTIKA NG BAYAN PARTNERS: DOH, BFAD, PhilHealth, DSAP, LCP, CCFMC, Soroptimist, PCPI, Unilab, LGUs & Rotary Clubs

EZ2 16 2 | SUERTRES 1 5 6 (In exact order) | FOUR DIGIT 6 0 8 4

Text us your feedback: Inquirer met name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

METRO

E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Ester G. Dipasupil

MEGALOTTO 6/45 13 14 16 21 23 38 P39,707,362.80

No receipt, no taxi fare hike–LTFRB

By Clarissa S. Batino

STARTING NEXT YEAR, TAXI drivers should start issuing receipts to their passengers in line with a two-year-old regulation that had already been deferred several times.

If they do not comply with the law, they would not be allowed to raise their fare even if the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) approves a petition to hike the taxi flag down rate by P15. Based on the circular issued by the agency last week, all taxi cabs would have to change their meters into one that can print out receipts. "If they will not comply, then we will not calibrate their meters. Then they won't be entitled to any fare adjustment," said LTFRB Chair Maria Elena Bautista.

Taxi operators also face penalties. Those who fail to comply with the order would be fined P1,000. Repeated violations could result in the suspension or revocation of their permit. First time offenders would be fined P1,000 and P3,000 for the second violation. The LTFRB warned that it would cancel the franchise on the third offense.

Taxi groups have a pending petition to increase flag down rates to P45 from the current rate of P30. The flag down applies to the fare for the first 500 meters. The LTFRB first issued the circular requiring taxis to issue receipts in 2003, but the implementation had been deferred several times. Bautista said it would no longer put off the order.

Taxi groups, however, are opposed to the policy and have asked the Department of Transportation and Communication to order the LTFRB to postpone its implementation. A new meter costs between P7,000 and P8,000 and has to be registered with the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR).

Once the meters are changed and registered with the BIR, the government could strictly impose a 3-percent gross receipts tax on taxi operators estimated to generate an additional P2.2 billion in collections yearly. According to the bureau, the government collects a small amount of taxes from the transport sector, including taxis whose operators pay a quarterly gross receipt of only 3 percent based on the minimum amount of P3,600. In a year, each taxi unit pays less than P500 in gross receipts tax.

Philippine National Taxi Owner Association President Bong Suntay said he was hopeful the DOTC would settle the issue but his group might also take the matter to court. Leonora Naval, president of the Association of Taxi Operators of Metro Manila, added the government should not base its taxes on the meter receipts. The government said the new taxi metering system would help get rid of units that operate illegally, improve taxi service and enable commuters to use the receipts for reimbursement.

Under the LTFRB circular, the receipt should state the taxi's name, address, telephone number, tax identification number, plate number, color-coded body number, date and time when the passenger embarks and disembarks, distance, waiting time and amount of fare in pesos.

Militant women's groups hold 'panty protest' vs poverty

TRAFFIC came to a stop yesterday as militant women placed their "intimate garments" on display in a rally against poverty in Quezon City. JOAN BONDOC

By DJ Yap

A WOMAN'S UNDERGARMENT AS A form of protest?

Militant women aged 16 to 60 staged a most unusual rally yesterday—a "panty protest" to denounce poverty which they called a most serious offense against their gender.

On the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, the Akbayan party-list and urban poor group Manggagawang Kababaihan Mithi ay Paglaya (Makalaya) strung up several women's underwear around the Boy Scout Circle at the intersection of Morato and Timog avenues.

The colorful garments, which were hoisted on bamboo poles, served as protest canvasses, bearing messages like *"Noodles at sitsirya, ulam ng pamilya"* (Noodles and crackers, a family's food). *"Tapos ng kolehiyo, tambay sa kanto,"* (From college graduate to street bum) and *"Pabigat ang E-Vat"* (E-Vat is a burden).

Rallyists waved the panties as they chanted anti-government slogans.

Akbayan Rep. Risa Hontiveros-Baraquel said the protest was a graphic demonstration of women's plight in a country where a vast majority of the population remains poor.

Despite the government's claims of an economic upturn, the Philippines has become a "noodle economy," as more and more Filipinos could only afford instant noodles, she said.

Women can no longer buy panties that protect their womanhood since the little money they have is spent on food, she added.

Makalaya chair Tess Borgonos said the protest was meant to be symbolic as women could no longer keep their sufferings private.

"The panty symbolizes a woman's private space which is intruded upon when it is removed. This happens in cases of violence against women," she added.

Continuing poverty and government neglect can be considered an insidious form of violence against women, the militant leader said.

"It's economic violence. It can also be considered psychological violence because poverty takes a toll on a woman's mental health," Borgonos said.

Militant labor groups, meanwhile, reiterated their call for a P125 legislated wage increase and announced that they would be holding a massive protest on Nov. 30.

METROBRIEFS

An 'incomplete' report

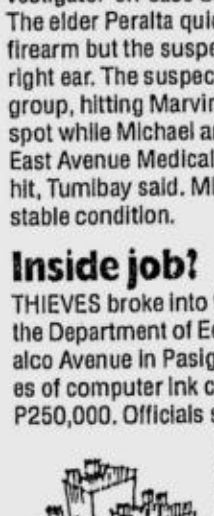
EASTERN POLICE DISTRICT investigators have admitted that its report on the Ortigas shootout involving suspected car thieves was far from complete and to a certain extent even inaccurate, according to a Commission on Human Rights (CHR) inquiry. Asked by CHR chair Purificacion Quisumbing how he rated the scene of the crime operatives' report on a scale of one to 10, Soco team leader Senior Insp. Russel Leyesa gave his team's report a 6. "The CHR, as admitted by the Soco team, noted that the report presented to the body is incomplete and inaccurate. Essentially, parts of important evidence are either omitted or were totally overlooked," the CHR said in a statement. The body is looking into whether or not the rights of suspects Anthony Dulay, Anton Cu-Unjieng and Francis Manzano were violated when they were killed in a police operation conducted by the PNP Traffic Management Group in early November. The investigators' admission that their findings were incomplete and even inaccurate to a certain degree is quite significant since the CHR is trying to establish if the suspects were killed in a shootout or were victims of a summary execution. The body added that it was not investigating on whether or not the suspects were guilty. *Norman Bordadora*

Thieves kill cop, son

A POLICEMAN and his 25-year-old son were killed while their two companies were wounded by suspected cellular phone thieves before dawn yesterday in Quezon City. SPO3 Marlo Peralta, 52, and son Marvin died after the suspects shot them for resisting when they grabbed Michael Ivan Peralta's cellular phone. The Peraltas were walking home with Michael, the policeman's nephew, and his friend Benjie Macam on Bustamante Street, Barangay Sto. Niño, Galas, at 2 a.m. when two unidentified men approached them. At gunpoint, the suspects grabbed Michael's cellular phone, a report by investigator-on-case SPO1 Felipe Tumibay said. The elder Peralta quickly took out his service firearm but the suspects fired, hitting him in the right ear. The suspects fired more shots at the group, hitting Marvin in the head. He died on the spot while Michael and Macam were taken to the East Avenue Medical Center after they were also hit, Tumibay said. Michael was later declared in stable condition. *DJ Yap*

Inside job?

THIEVES broke into the property division office at the Department of Education compound on Meralco Avenue in Pasig City, carting away three boxes of computer ink cartridges worth nearly P250,000. Officials suspect the theft could be an inside job since the perpetrators knew where the unused ink cartridges were kept, investigator PO3 Bobby Lumiwan told the INQUIRER. The loss was discovered at about 8 a.m. Thursday when utility worker Danilo Tribiano, 40, reported for work and noticed that the door to the Office of the Property Division inside the heavily guarded DepEd compound had been forcibly opened. *Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*



Meningo not yet ruled out in Pasay woman's death

By Jocelyn R. Uy

IT WAS NOT MENINGOCOCCEMIA that killed a 35-year-old woman at the Pasay City General Hospital (PCGH, the latest test findings on her blood samples revealed yesterday.

But PCGH director Dr. Leto Mangonon said they would still have to wait for the final results.

"It could take three to five more days for us to rule out a meningo case," Mangonon told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Doctors at the San Juan de Dios yesterday continued to perform a blood culture and sensitivity test on blood samples taken from the victim who died Wednesday night.

"We need to run a series of tests to verify the results," Mangonon said.

Before the victim was admitted to the hospital, she had been running a fever for four days. Upon her admission on Nov. 22, she was showing some of the symptoms of the disease, like vomiting and low blood pressure.

"It is a highly suspicious case of meningo," the doctor said.

Mangonon, however, stressed that the public need not worry as "we are in control of the situation."

"They should not be scared and must not overreact. But it's good to be on alert at all times to prevent the spread of the disease," he said.

Sand, not bombs inside mall

AROUND 50 POLICEMEN, EXplosives experts and firemen rushed to the Sta. Lucia Grand East Mall in Cainta, Rizal, yesterday after shoppers discovered two boxes suspected to contain bombs.

Several tension-filled hours later, the boxes were found to contain packets of sand with electric wires placed on top.

"Whoever left the packages clearly just wanted to scare people," Cainta Police chief Supt. Gilbert Cruz told the INQUIRER.

The discovery of the boxes on the fourth floor led to the mall's closure as shoppers were asked to leave. *Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*

A perfect gentleman

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

I WAS SHOCKED AT THE NEWS that National Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco was taken to the hospital in serious condition.

How could a guy so healthy and so athletic suffer a stroke? Wykes (that's what his close friends and subordinates call him) took good care of himself.

Doctors at the Manila Doctors Hospital said Wykes had a "congenital aneurysm" which burst.

Persons with aneurysm, I was told, are walking time bombs. They never know when the balloon in their artery will burst.

An NBI insider told me Wykes got very upset with a team of agents that extorted money from a small businessman. The businessman's offense was to have in his possession a small quantity of firecrackers that he would have sold for the holidays.

The businessman, who happens to be a friend of Wykes, told on the NBI agents. After Wykes berated the delinquent agents, he suddenly fell to the floor inside his office. I was surprised that Wykes would be so angry as to cause him to be hospitalized. From what I know of him, the guy is calm and slow to anger. In the two decades that I've known Wykes, I have not known him to get mad. I even thought he would have made an excellent bank executive instead of a law enforcer because of his good manners and gentlemanly demeanor.

Years ago, I brought a carpenter from Bulacan to Wycoco. The carpenter had been shot by a cop assigned at the National Capital Region Police Office that Wycoco headed at the time. The carpenter's only fault was to pass by the cop's house while the latter was drunk and having a domestic spat. I was so stricken with pity for the poor man I scolded the cop in front of Wykes. I learned later that he took offense at my action, but he didn't tell me about it.

I first met Wykes when he was assigned at the public information office of the Armed Forces in Camp Aguinaldo. Gen. Fabian Ver was then AFP chief of staff. Wykes was different from the other young officers. He didn't have a swagger like the others who strutted like peacocks as if martial law would never end. He has retained his mild manners over the years. Once over dinner, we talked about some men who had raped and killed a mother and her daughter. The suspects were arrested by the NBI. I said that one of his predecessors would have promptly sent those guys to Kingdom Come without trial.

"Mon, of what use are the courts if we kill criminals without trial?" he said.

Wykes wants NBI agents to keep their wits under all kinds of pressure. His final test for NBI agent-recruits is for them to get drunk during a party. Candidates whose behavior went out of bounds don't make the grade. "You see the person's real character when he's under the influence of liquor," Wykes told me.

10 YEARS

BMW Premium Selection.
Pre-owned Automobiles.

Program benefits:
12-month or 20,000-kilometer warranty
comprehensive 100-point technical check
certified vehicle history
flexible ownership packages

The new BMW 3 Series (E90)			Then	Now
BMW 320i	Titanium Silver	2005	P2,345,000	P2,227,750
BMW 320i	Arctic	2005	P2,345,000	P2,227,750
BMW 320i	Sparkling Graphite	2005	P2,345,000	P2,227,750
BMW 320i Exec.	Titanium Silver	2005	P2,595,000	P2,465,250
BMW 325i	Black Sapphire	2005	P3,600,000	P3,420,000
BMW 325i Exec.	Titanium Silver	2005	P3,682,000	P3,497,900
BMW 330i Exec.	Titanium Silver	2005	P4,075,000	P3,871,250
BMW 3 Series (E46)			Then	Now
BMW 318i Lim.	Alpine White	2001	P2,050,000	P1,100,000
BMW 318i M Sport	Topaz Blue	2004	P2,950,000	P1,850,000
BMW 325i Exec.	Black Sapphire	2004	P3,500,000	P2,200,000
BMW 325i M Sport(SMG)	Imola Red	2004	P3,600,000	P2,665,000

Prestige Cars BMW
2324 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City • Tel. (02) 892 8127 to 29 • Sales Direct Line (02) 812 7950 • Fax (02) 816 7325

Unlimited texting for this season's unlimited greetings!

EXTENDED UNTIL DEC 16

NEW!

P15

UNLIMITED TEXTS FOR 1 DAY!*

TO REGISTER:

load as low as P15
to your prepaid line

15

Type 15 and send to 258.

You will receive a confirmation message of your registration. You may now make unlimited texts to other Smart subscribers for 1 day.

(Registration is from 9AM to 5PM and 11PM to 6AM only)

To enjoy SMART 258 Text Reload, your account must have a maintaining balance of at least P1.00 after registration and during the 1-day (text) period.

P30

UNLIMITED TEXTS FOR 2 DAYS!*

TO REGISTER:
load as low as P30
to your prepaid line

30

Type 30 and send to 258

P60

UNLIMITED TEXTS FOR 4 DAYS!*

TO REGISTER:
load as low as P60
to your prepaid line

60

Type 60 and send to 258

AND TO AVOID HEAVY NETWORK TRAFFIC** TRY OUR

P30 OFF-PEAK

UNLIMITED OFF-PEAK TEXTS FOR 2 DAYS!*
PLUS 40 FREE TEXTS
DURING PEAK HOURS
(OUTSIDE 11PM TO 6AM)

TO REGISTER:
load as low as P30
to your prepaid line

30OFFPK

Type 30OFFPK and send to 258

TEXT TIL YOU DROP!

WITH

SMART 258 TEXT RELOAD

* Unlimited texts apply to local Smart to Smart texts only. Regular rates apply for texts to other networks. Regular rates apply for MMS and VAS downloads.

**Unlimited text offers in general result to heavy network traffic due to the demand for the service.

Available to all prepaid brands on the Smart network.

Smart Simply Amazing!

Promo extended from November 17 to December 16, 2006 as approved by DTI-NCR PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. 6293 SERIES OF 2006

WHAT'S INSIDE

■ RP team sinks Malaysia, takes silver /A24

■ Alapag back as 3-pt shoot king /A28

■ Thai boxing coach fears bum scoring /A27

RP booters pull off hard triumph over Cambodia

By Cedelf Tupas
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—TEAM captain Ali Borromeo woke up yesterday morning thinking it was going to be a bad day. A few hours later, it turned out to be one of the glorious moments of his young career and of Philippine football.

The RP team, buoyed by two goals in the final eight minutes, broke a 10-year losing spell in the Southeast Asian Games and kept its medal hopes alive with a pulsating 4-2 triumph over Cambodia last night before another huge crowd at the Panaad Stadium.

"Four of us had diarrhea. I woke up saying 'oh man, this can't happen especially on match day,'" the 6-foot-1 Borromeo, 22, who was instrumental in the two go-ahead goals for the Philippines, said.

Always a threat at the far post during dead-ball situations, Borromeo rose to head in James Younghusband's corner in the 65th minute for a 2-1 lead before feeding an open Phil Greatwich for another header that proved to be the decisive point in the 85th minute as the crowd of about 15,000 broke into pandemonium.

Living up to his billing, Younghusband broke the ice in the 12th minute with a 25-yard rocket but Cambodia silenced the raucous flag-waving, drum-beating crowd four minutes later after a header by striker Srey Veasoutna in the 16th minute inside the box following a mad scramble off a corner kick.

Based in San Francisco, Borromeo, who has played goalkeeper, striker and now defender for the national team, felt the win was very special more than anything else.

"We just re-fueled and re-fueled ourselves with water. It's a great feeling that we were able to overcome this despite the odds," said Borromeo, who shrugged off the ailment just like Greatwich and midfielder Jeffrey Liman. Andy Prochnow, who also had diarrhea, did not play.

Borromeo's go-ahead goal was cancelled out by Pok Chan Than, who capitalized on the RP booters' poor defense with a low drive just inside the box in the 76th minute.

But just when everyone thought that the match was heading into a stalemate, 18-year-old Greatwich struck for a 3-2

RP BOOTERS/ A28

PHIL Greatwich (left) heads the game-winner in the 85th minute.

ANDY ALVAREZ/PDI VISAYAS BUREAU

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

MEN'S FOOTBALL (*Paglaum, Bacolod City*)
4 p.m.—Vietnam vs Indonesia
6:30 p.m.—Laos vs Singapore

WOMEN'S FOOTBALL (*Marikina Sports Center*)
4 p.m.—Thailand vs Vietnam
6:30 p.m.—Philippines vs Indonesia

TENNIS (Rizal Memorial Tennis Ctr)
9 a.m.—Thailand vs Burma (Myanmar) (men)
9 a.m.—Indonesia vs Cambodia (men)
9 a.m.—Myanmar vs Vietnam (women)

TOMORROW'S SCHEDULE

BILLIARDS AND SNOOKER (*Makati Coliseum*)
10 a.m.—15-ball doubles (men's quarterfinals)
1:30 p.m.—15-ball doubles (men's semifinals)
1 p.m.—Snooker Team (quarterfinals)
4 p.m.—15-ball doubles (bronze medal match)
7 p.m.—Snooker Team (semifinals)
7 p.m.—15-ball doubles (finals)

CHESS (*Tagaytay International Convention Center*)
8:30 a.m.—Blitz (men's and women's preliminaries)
4:15 p.m.—Blitz (men's and women's finals)

AQUATICS-DIVING (*Trace College, Laguna*)
9:30 a.m.—3-m synchro springboard (women's preliminary/finals)
10:30 a.m.—10-m synchro platform (men's preliminary/finals)
2 p.m.—1-m springboard (men's preliminary/finals)

DANCESPORT (*Water Front Hotel, Cebu City*)
12:35 p.m.—Latin American (Rd. 1)
12:55 p.m.—Standard
1:15 p.m.—Latin American (Rd. 2)
1:40 p.m.—Standard (Finals)
2:05 p.m.—Latin American (Finals)

KARATE-DO (*Mandaue Coliseum, Mandaue City*)
9 a.m.—Team Kumite (men's finals)
9 a.m.—Team Kumite (women's finals)
1 p.m.—Individual Kata (women's finals)
3 p.m.—Individual Kata (men's finals)

MEN'S FOOTBALL (*Panaad SC, Bacolod City*)
4:30 p.m.—Thailand vs Malaysia

VOLLEYBALL (*West Negros College Gym, Bacolod*)
2 p.m.—Philippines vs Timor Leste (men's prelims)

Top MILF leaders give SEAG opening ceremonies a miss

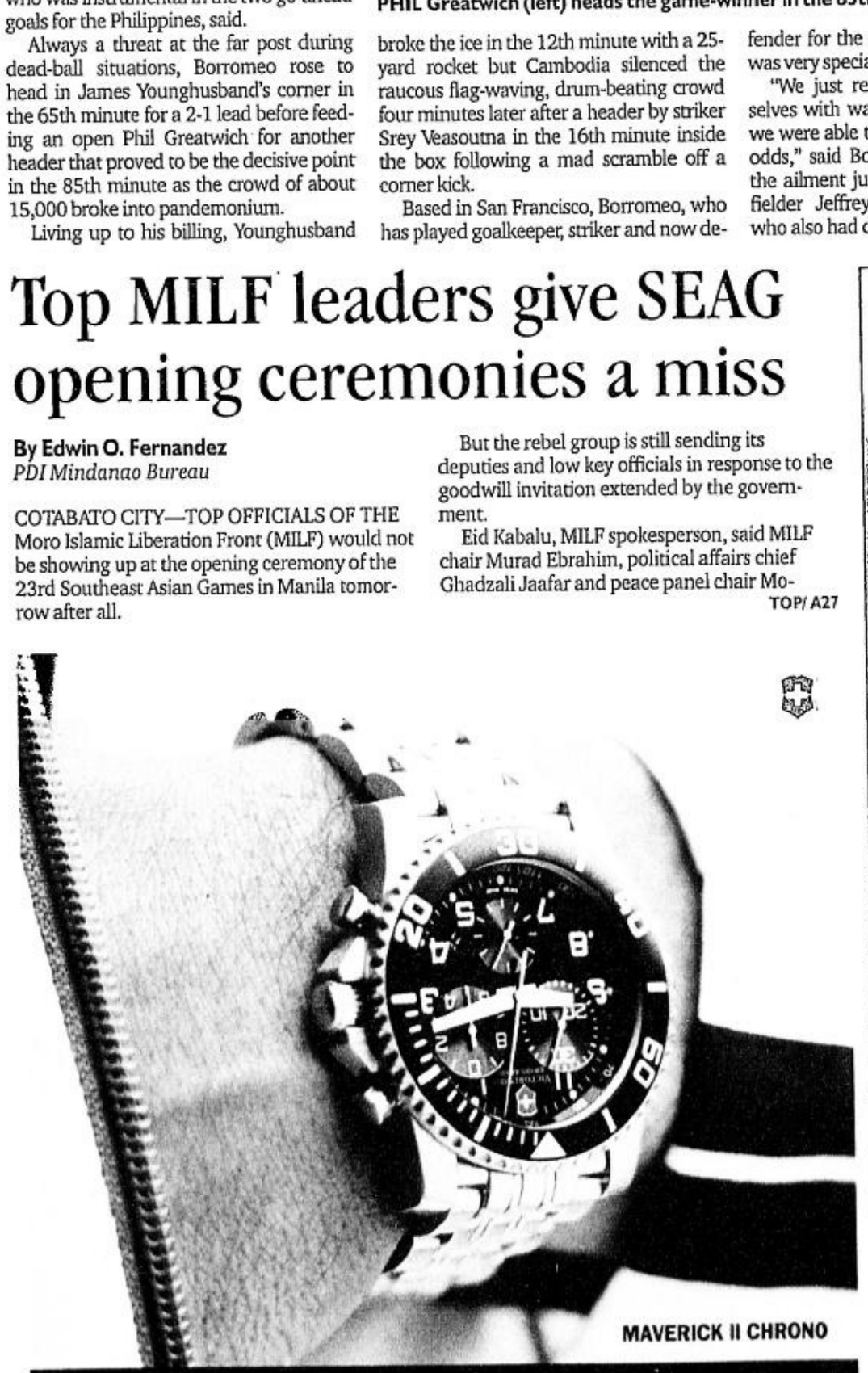
By Edwin O. Fernandez
PDI Mindanao Bureau

COTABATO CITY—TOP OFFICIALS OF THE Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) would not be showing up at the opening ceremony of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games in Manila tomorrow after all.

But the rebel group is still sending its deputies and low key officials in response to the goodwill invitation extended by the government.

Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesperson, said MILF chair Murad Ebrahim, political affairs chief Ghadzali Jaafar and peace panel chair Mo-

TOP/ A27



RP squad sinks Malaysia, seizes water polo silver

By Marc Anthony Reyes

LOS BAÑOS—TWO DAYS BEFORE THE OFFICIAL start of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games, the Philippines has claimed its first medal—a silver from the water polo team.

After Singapore had swept its way to its 14th straight water polo gold medal with a rout of Vietnam, 15-4, the Philippines earned a well-deserved silver with an emphatic 8-2 win over Malaysia last night at the Trace College Aquatic Center here.

The Singaporeans, unchallenged since 1979, completed a 5-0 romp in the single-round tournament, outclassing all but the Filipinos, who fought hard before dropping a heartbreaking 6-7 loss last Tuesday.

Coached by a Russian and trained abroad all year long, Singapore reasserted its status as the region's superpower in the sport by demolishing Malaysia (21-3), 2003 silver medal winner Thailand (12-3), Indonesia (16-7) and Vietnam (15-4).

But the hard-fighting host team gave Singapore a big scare as the Philippines tied the score at 6-6 in the final quarter before Terence Tan Wei Keong hit the deciding goal late in the game.

"There was a time when the Philippines gets routed by Singapore, but since Vietnam in 2003 we are slowly getting closer to their level and I'm very sure we'll be able to finally beat them in the future competitions," said RP coach Rey Galang.

"This performance is the best ever showed by the RP water polo team," said Philippine Amateur Swimming Association president Mark Joseph.

The RP divers hope to get the lion's share of the 10 gold medals at stake in the event which starts tomorrow. Powered by US-trained locals and Fil-American bets, the country also hopes to grab most of the 32 golds to be disputed in swimming starting on the 29th.

THE PHILIPPINES' Danny dela Torre (4) takes aim off a Malaysian during their game yesterday. The Filipinos proved a cut above their rivals. EDWIN BACASMAS

Goalie Allan Payawal caused the biggest headache for the Malaysians, who settled for the bronze medal with a 2-3 win-loss record.

Sherwin dela Paz, who finished with two goals, Norton Alamara, Dale Evangelista and Michael Jorola gave the country a 4-1 lead in the first quarter.

Egged on by the huge crowd, Filipinos continued to fire away and eventually broke the game wide open with a 7-1 lead entering the fourth quarter.

The Philippines also took the silver in 1993 in Singapore and in 1991 in Brunei.

The Philippines, who trained in China and Hong Kong this year, opened its bid with a 15-10 win over Indonesia. After the loss to Singapore, the Philippines crushed Thailand (10-2) and Vietnam (13-3) before the blowout win over Malaysia.

We can't do it alone, says Pinoy beach volley coach

BACOLOD CITY—THE UNWILLINGNESS OF the government to spend and invest on its athletes is the main deterrent to sports development in the Philippines, the head coach of the RP beach volleyball team said yesterday.

"We cannot do it on our own," Rustico Camangian, head coach of the RP beach volleyball squads competing in 23rd Southeast Asian Games, said in a press conference at the Business Inn Hotel here.

Camangian swore the Philippines has a great potential of becoming one of Southeast Asia's powerhouses in beach volleyball if enough support is provided.

The Philippines had last competed in the event during the 1997 SEA Games in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Lack of funding was singled out as the main culprit.

"The hearts and skills of these beach volleyball bets are great. Imagine how good they will become if we give them enough support financially," Camangian said.

The RP mentor said he was also unable to evaluate his spikers thoroughly during international stints because only the expenses of the players were shouldered by sponsors when participating abroad.

"We could not represent the country in beach volleyball consistently because we do not have funds," confirmed Negrense Rhovyl Verayo, who will banner team A of the men's team with Parley Tupaz.

Bacoleña Michelle Laborte said the assistance given by the government is inadequate. *Christian Irl Tan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

2 team bronze medals in the bag for Filipino netters

By Musong R. Castillo

THE PHILIPPINES ASSURED ITSELF OF at least two bronze medals after drawing opening-round byes in the team events of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games tennis tournament, which starts today at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

Fil-Ams Cecil Mamiit and Eric Taino will not play until tomorrow as the Philippines, seeded first in men's play, clashes with the winner of the Thailand-Burma (Myanmar) duel starting at 9 this morning.

Indonesia, seeded second, takes on Cambodia in the other men's team duel today. The lone women's team schedule pits Burma against Vietnam.

The RP women's team was ranked third and will collide with No. 2 Indonesia in the lower half of the draw. The Indons also earned an opening-round bye.

Rock-solid Thailand, spearheaded by world No. 192 Suchanan Viratprasert, is the top-ranked women's team.

Singles action will not start until Tuesday, and an interesting match could pit Mamiit against Thai Danai Udomchoke, who is ranked No. 129 in the world.

The Thais earned third seeding in men's play after Indonesia, which will field another SEA Games veteran—Suwandi Suwandi.

Two of the seven tennis gold medals are staked in team play, where the top two players from each country play singles. In case of a tie, a doubles match will be played.

The team captains will name their representatives in the doubles 15 minutes before the start of the first singles between their No. 2 ranked players.

Coach Johnny Jose named RP No. 1 Riza Angela Zalameda to play two matches tomorrow. He also paired the UCLA star with Denise Dy against a still unnamed Indon pair.

Zalameda, the 18-year-old daughter of former RP Davis Cupper Rolly, slugs it out with veteran Wynee Adiati Prakusia of Indonesia, while RP No. 2 Czarina Mae Arevalo clashes with Romana Tedjakusuma.

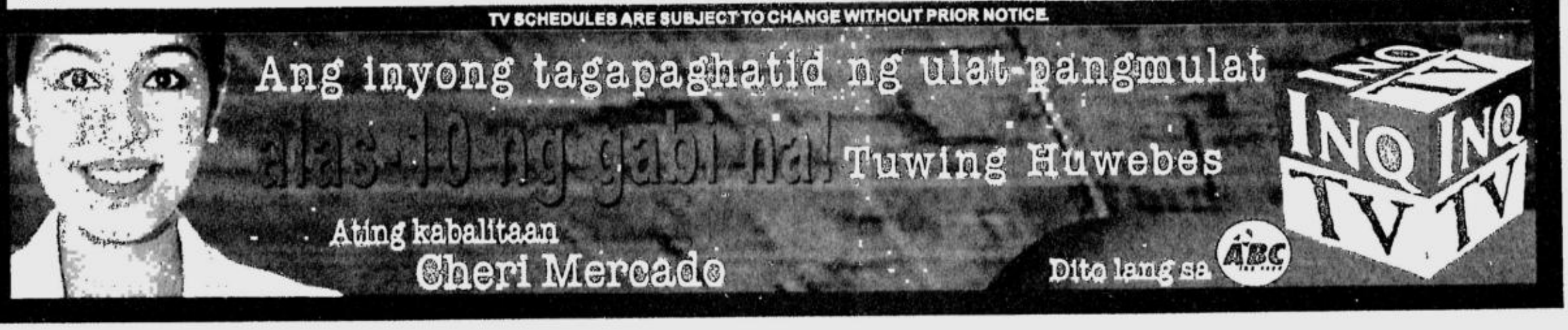
Maricris Fernandez, the former age group prodigy, won the last RP gold in tennis, pulling off the trick in 1999 in Brunei against Prakusia.

"They (Indons) may be old, but they are no pushovers," Jose told the INQUIRER. "When you play them (Indons), it's like you're hitting against a wall."

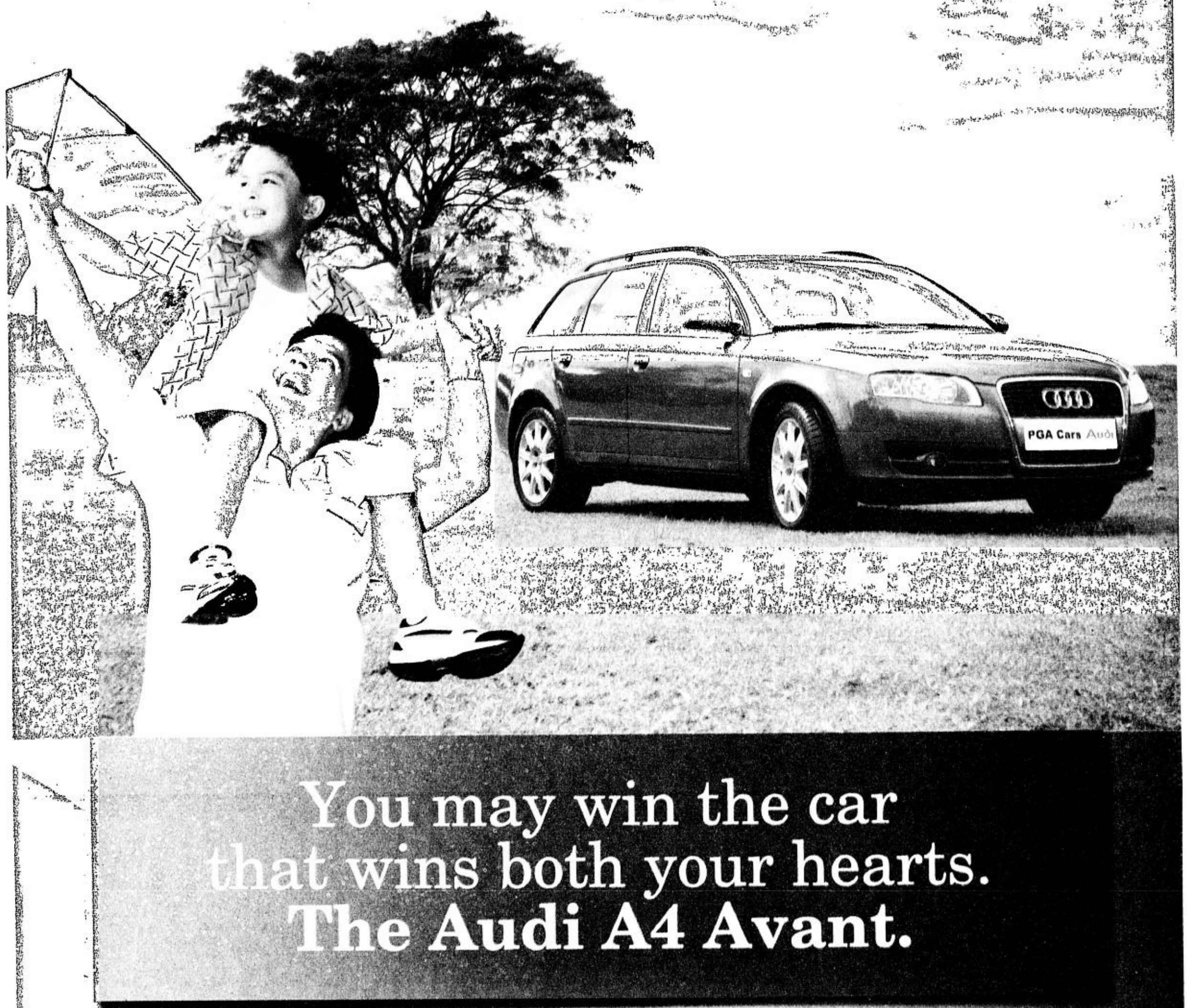
Eight teams comprise the men's draw, while five countries make up the women's field with Singapore and East Timor having only one player each in the distaff side.

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5	Art is-Kool	KNN	Anime Ring Kaisho		PBA				Mr Fighting		Blind Item		Wow Mising Mali		Inang Bayan		10th Metro Bluedors Cup Championships	
ABS-CBN 2	ETK				Nginig		Little Big Star		My Juan And Only	Quizon Avenue	Magandang Gabi Bayan!		TV Patrol World	Pinoy Big Brother	Sabado Movie Greats			
AXN		The Amazing Race Family Edition		The Contender Special		AXN Shakedown		Mondo Magic	E Buzz	Gamemax	Hollywood's Greatest Stunts	The Amazing Race Family Edition	Las Vegas		House		The Shield	
Cartoon Network		Police Academy	The Detective Squad	Tom & Jerry Show	The Road Runner Show	Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends	Winx Club	Hi Hi Puffy AmiYumi	The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	Samurai Jack	My Scene Jammin In Jamaica		Cartoon Cartoon Show	Crush Gear Nitro	The Grimmsters	Justice League	Sealab 2021 (11:15PM)	Aqua Teen Hunger Force
Cinema One	So Happy Together				Buzz Of U				My Movie			Dahil May Isang Ikaw				Don Quixote		
Cinemax		Hostile Waters (3:15 PM)				Maverick				Wonderland (7:15 PM)			Guarding Tess			Hulk (10:35PM)		
CNN	World Business This Week	World News	People In The News	World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		World News	International Correspondents	World News	Spark	World News	The Daily Show John Stewart Global Edition	World News	World Sport	World News	Talk Asia	World News	Diplomatic License
Discovery Channel		Human Discovery		Extreme Machines		Blueprint For Disaster		Hour China		Wild Discovery				Gutty Or Innocent		Real Race II		Extreme Destroyer
Disney Channel	Recess	Totally Spies	Lizzie Mcguire	Brandy & Mr. Whiskers	Lilo & Stitch	Totally Spies	Mr. Bean	Phil Of The Future	Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Mr. Bean	America's Funniest Home Video	Phil Of The Future	Even Stevens	Wonderful World Of Disney
ESPN												Sportscenter Asia						
ETC		Saturday Night Live		For Love Or Money		Joan Of Arcadia		The O.C.		Queer Eye For The Straight Guy		Last Comic Standing	Saturday Night Live			Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno
EWTN	Miracles Of The Child Jesus	Angelus (3:15 PM)	Image Of God	Adventures In Odyssey	Knights Of St. Michael	Rosary With Mother Angelica	The Church And The Poor-Building Bridges	Catholic Compass		The World Over Encore		Fr. John Corapi	Daily Mass (SAP) Live			Angelus (10:15PM)	Sacraments Through The Ages	Life on The Rock Encore
Fox News		Hannity & Colmes		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Special Report With Brit Hume		Fox & Friends Saturday						Buts & Bears Cavuto On Business
GMA 7	Startalk			Wish Ko Lang		Wag Kukurap	Pinoy Pop Superstar		Bitoy's Funniest Videos Kapuso Mo, Jessica Soho		Imbestigador		Hokus Pocus		Showbiz Shipped			
Hallmark Channel	Who's The Boss	Safe House				Mr. Saint Nick				Sea People				Hawking			Frankenstein (10:35PM)	
HBO				Superman II (3:30 PM)				Touching Wild Horses			Disturbing Behavior			Cellular			The Flintstones (Movie)	
IBC 13		Home Shopping Network		Nation's Headmaster	Good Take	Home Shopping Network		Pangarap Kong Jackpot		Basketball Show		SeaGames Special		Bitag		Philippine Sailoring Sports		
JackTV		Worst Case Scenario		Ghost	Filter	Samurai Jack	X-Men	Justice League Unlimited	The Batman	WWE Bottomline		Wwe Raw				South Park	The Man Show	Chappelle's Show	Best The Geeks
Lifestyle Network	Living Space	New Orleans: Elegance & Decadence		Radical Sabbatical	Road & Track	Genuine Article	Food Fight	Date Plate	Emeril Live		Iron Chef America		How Do I Look		NY Fashion Week		Ei Extra My Crazy Life	Fashion Trance	
MTV Philippines	Hanging Out	MTV Hits	Wade Robson Project	MTV Presents				Homecoming	Punk'D	Wild N' Out	MTV Crib	MTV Livewire		Chart Attack		Brand New	Massive	Jams	Rockda
MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Bandarilo	MYX News	MYX Presents		Take 5		Top Of The Pops	Star MYX	MYXILOG	Pop MYX	MYX Live!		Pinoy MYX Countdown				MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX
National Geographic		Inside 911				Spain Wild!		Creature Feature				Cliffhangers		Crocodiles Here Be Dragon		Big Bite Nite			
NBN				Corporate Billiards League		Concert at the Park		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		Talk To Harry		GSIS Member's Hour		The Working President	Family Rosary Crusade	Poco Park Presents		Auto Focus	
Nickelodeon	Ned's Classified School Survival Guide	Unfabulous	Naturally Sadie	Romeo	Drake & Josh	Zoey 101	Avatar: The Last Airbender	Danny Phantom	My Life As A Teenage Robot	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Fairly Odd Parents	Four Eyes	Zoey 101	Unfabulous	Girls In Love	Ned's Classified School Survival Guide	Four Eyes	The Wild Thornberrys	The Brothers Garcia
PBO			Apoy Sa Puso				Lihim Ng Kalaw		Sarah, The Pop Princess				Manalo Matalo Mahal Kita				Ginto't Pilak		
RPN 9		Tara Lets	Global Window	Biyaheng Langit	Kids TV	Barangay Bida		Isumbong mo Kay Tulfo		Medical Investigation		CSI: Miami		Saturday Night Playhouse				Money Talk	
SBN 21		New Life TV Shopping		Friends Again		Shepards Voice		EZ Shop		JAI		Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Music Video		Oras Ng Himala	
Solar Sports		China Master WD Finals		ENB World Champ Cup Men's Event: Edy vs. USA				Phil 9-Ball Open Day1				GWS	NBA Jam	NBA Game Raptors @ Kings					NBA Jam
Sports Plus				Monster Jam		Lock & Load II	Inside the PGA	FMX		Nok Turnervision	UFC Primer Sudden Impact	Ultimate Fighting Championship Special						Franklin Templeton Shootout Day1	
Star Movies			The Big Lebowski				Dick			Imaginary Boyfriend				Hidalgo				Die Hard (11:15PM)	
Star World		The Collector		Miami Vice		Wild Card		John Doe		Chronicles, News From The Edge		TNA Xplosion		Ghost Hunters		Enterprise		Kumars At 42	Less Than Perfect/ Miss World Southern Europe Vote For Me
Studio 23									Sports TV	Mr Bean	Pinoy Big Brother	Glamour Girls	Jack & Bobby		Studio 23 Present				

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE



BPI EXPRESS CREDIT



You may win the car that wins both your hearts. **The Audi A4 Avant.**

To join, simply charge a minimum purchase of ₱1,000 to your PETRON-BPI MasterCard.

- Every ₱1,000 purchase entitles you to one raffle entry.
- Earn two (2) entries for every ₱1,000 purchase in participating Petron stations.
- The more entries, the more chances to win.

...the credit card that can

Make IT Happen

BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS
A tradition of leadership

PETRON
Fuel Success.

PGA Cars, Inc.
Sole importer and distributor

Audi

Prudential Guarantee

*To apply for a PETRON-BPI MasterCard, visit any BPI or BPI Family Savings Bank branch or Express Banking Center near you or call 89-100 or log on to www.bpiexpressonline.com.

*Annual membership fee for new customers waived for the first year.
*Approved applications during the promo period will also earn raffle entries.
*Actual unit may vary from photo.

BPI Express Credit's Make It Happen promotion is from November 15, 2005 to May 15, 2006.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 6503, Series of 2005

Thailand tipped to rule athletics

By Musong R. Castillo

REGIONAL POWERHOUSE THAILAND WILL BE represented by a 78-strong contingent that hopes to win a big chunk of the 45 gold medals at stake and retain athletics' overall championship in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games starting tomorrow.

Vietnam, the overall champion when the Games were held in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh cities two years ago, will be fielding close to 50 athletes and is also hoping to frustrate host Philippines' bid for supremacy in the centerpiece event of the competition.

"What we saw is a strong Thai and Vietnamese delegations that arrived," Philippine Amateur Track and Field president Go Teng Kok said. "They brought their best athletes to this (SEAG) tournament and we are in for a tough battle."

Go maintained that his Patafa squad of 52 (32 men and 20 women) has at least 10 golds in the bag but said he would be satisfied with 13 overall which is two off his previous forecast of 15 victories.

"I have 10 gold medals in my pocket now and I think that the 15 I earlier said would be very hard to achieve," Go said. "Thirteen would be the best we can get and if we do, I think it would be enough for the overall title in athletics."

Thailand won 22 gold medals in Vietnam, with the Philippines, Vietnam and Malaysia snaring eight each.

EVENTS ON DAY 1, SUNDAY (*Rizal Memorial Track Stadium*)
8 a.m.—Long jump (women finals)
9 a.m.—Pole vault (women finals); High jump (women finals); 100m (men semifinals); 800m (men, heats)
9:15 a.m.—800m (women, heats)
9:45 a.m.—100m (men and women, heats)
10:15 a.m.—400m (men and women, heats)
10:45 a.m.—110m hurdles (men, heats)
11 a.m.—100m hurdles (women, heats)
11:15 a.m.—100m (men and women semifinals)

Women's long jump will be the first gold to be disputed in athletics at the age-old Rizal Memorial oval along Vito Cruz tomorrow and all indications point to an all-Filipino clash for top honors between Lerma Balauitan-Gabito and Marestela Torres.

Torres now owns the RP mark of 6.63 meters and will be gunning for a first SEA Games gold after a frustrating outing in Vietnam.

The Philippines has a long winning tradition in this event through the now retired Elma Muros-Posadas and Lydia de Vega, who won in 1983.

Meanwhile, Maurice Nicholas, the IAAF sec-gen and overall in-charge of athletics action, yesterday said that he expects records to fall with the Games being held at a time when athletes "are fresher and stronger."

Nicholas, who arrived yesterday, said that "athletes from the region are fresher because they have not played in so many tournaments. And I know that these countries have prepared long and hard for this event."

MEMBERS of the RP track team work out at the newly laid synthetic track at the Rizal memorial stadium. RYAN LIM

Lady booters meet Indons in Marikina

THE PHILIPPINE WOMEN'S TEAM TAKES ON Indonesia in a must-win assignment at 6:30 tonight in women's football competition of the 23rd SEA Games at the Marikina Sports Park.

Coach Marlon Maro's wards also need to score as many goals as possible in the event that the "goals for-goals against" system is employed to break a tie at the end of this single round robin event.

The Nationals will be in blue uniform and Philippine Football Federation (PFF) president Johnny Romualdez is once again requesting all football aficionados to come to the stadium in blue attire.

Marikina City Mayor Marides C. Fernando has also called on Marikeños to come in blue and cheer for the team.

Marikina City officials Rommel Felipe, Julie Borje and Vian Lustre, working closely with the PFF, have managed to fill the stadium with supporters dressed and made up in blue.

Waving Philippine flags and beating drums, the fans have turned Marikina into a football city the last few days.

The publicity generated by print, radio and television has given the game such a boost that it is turning Filipino football into a new spectator sport.

The Creamsilk TV commercial of RP reserve player Monica Santos has also helped give the game a face to remember. It seems that all the sport needs at the moment is a medal of any color to elevate its stature in the country.

Thailand and Vietnam collide in the 4 p.m. opener with defending champion Vietnam needing a win to stay alive in this competition.

PAGULAYAN: In hunt for another medal

'Young Generation' squad powers RP pool bid

REIGNING US OPEN 9-BALL CHAMpion Alex Pagulayan leads the charge, veteran Leonardo Andam will again shoot for medals, but it's a "new generation" pool team the Philippines is fielding in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games.

Billiards and Snooker Congress of the Philippines president Ernesto Fajardo yesterday said they are cautiously optimistic about the team's chances in the event which fires off tomorrow at the Makati Coliseum.

"We're missing some big names, but the team we have put together is young and strong," said Fajardo. "I'm confident we will surpass the two golds we won in Vietnam."

The pool contingent consists of Pagulayan, Andam, Ronnie Alcano, Lee Vann Corteza, Antonio Gabica, Gandy Valle, Dennis Orcollo. Except for Andam, all belong to the younger generation of players who have followed the giant steps of Efren Reyes and Django Bustamante.

Reyes and Bustamante, who used to banner the RP team in international events, have begged off for medical reasons. Also absent are Antonio Lining and Warren Kiamco, former RP team mainstays.

Corteza has the distinction of winning the two gold medals (one for singles and the other for doubles) for the Philippines at the 2003 SEA Games.

Pagulayan, winner of the 2004 World Pool Championship in Taipei, will be donning the Philippine colors for the first time.

Alcano, dubbed "Volcano" by foreign pool commentators for his explosive style, will also represent the country for the first time.

Also boosting RP hopes is the women's pool team composed of Rubilen Amit, Iris Ranola and Mary Ann Basas—all in their early 20s.

Rounding up the national team are the Filipino players in snooker, English billiards and carom events.

Former SEAG silver medalist Reynaldo Grandea and Luis Saberdo will carry the RP flag in English billiards.

Grandea will also team-up with Francisco de la Cruz in the carom competition.

23rd SEA GAMES Philippines 2005

Watch the opening ceremonies of the 23rd SEA Games

November 27, 5:30 pm
Quirino Grandstand
Free Admission

Simulcast broadcast in channels 4, 5 and 13
Radio coverage over DZSR - AM 918 Sports Radio

CHEER FOR TEAM PHILIPPINES!

making great things possible Globe · PLDT · Milo · Multivitamins Revicon Forte · Philippine Airlines · Yonex · Philips · Canon Delighting You Always · Colorado · FedEx Express · Molten · Happee The Official Toothpaste · Century Park Hotel · Thunder · iSan · Mikasa · Copylandia · FBT

Thai boxing coach fears bum scoring

By Cedelf Tupas, *PDI Visayas Bureau*

BACOLOD CITY—THE HEAD COACH OF THAILAND'S WOMEN'S boxing team yesterday expressed concern that judging might go in favor of Filipino bets in the Southeast Asian Games here.

Without mincing a word, coach Raiman Boonthom said he was worried of a hometown decision.

Despite the apprehension, coach Boonthom bared his fighters are targeting a five-gold sweep. They have prepared long and hard and are no longer intimidated by the RP lady pugs' home-court edge, according to Boonthom.

Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines president Manny Lopez has earlier assured of impartial officiating in the boxing competition, which starts Nov. 28 at the University of St. La Salle Coliseum.

The RP Team is led by local favorite and Asian champion Mitchell Martinez and Jouvilet Chilem.

Boonthom said his best bet for gold medals were Usanakorn Tawinsuwanwang (48kg) and Tatmalee Thongjan (54kg).

BEST BET: Light-flyweight Harry Tañamor JESS YUSON

The Thai government, Amateur Boxing Association of Thailand and the team manager have allotted an incentive of 300,000 baht for a gold by a Thai woman boxer. If the team completes a sweep, a bonus of 100,000 baht would be added to the incentive.

For his part, the head coach of the Thai men's boxing team, Jorge Hernandez, expressed confidence his team would perform well and "should get at least five gold medals."

Rival mentor says RP spikers can't win gold

BACOLOD CITY—THE THAILAND women's volleyball team horsed around in the gym yesterday before its coach downplayed the RP team's chances of wresting the crown from the defending Southeast Asian Games titlist.

"I'm 80 percent sure that we will win the gold again," Thai coach Sutichai Chanbunebee said after the light training at the University of St. La Salle covered court here.

Chanbunebee said the Filipino lady spikers have improved, but not good enough to snatch the gold from them.

"There is a big possibility that we will meet the Philippines in the finals, but I'm confident that we will still win," he said.

Philippines will collide with five-time SEA Games champion Thailand on Dec. 2 at the newly refurbished West Negros College Gym here.

The Thais clobbered the RP volleybelles, 25-15, 25-18, 25-12, in the Shakey's Invitational volleyball championship in Manila last month.

The Filipinos competed in the 13th Asian Senior Women's Championships in Taicang, China, and trained in Japan as part of their preparations for the Games.

They are eyeing to improve on their second runner-up finish in the 2003 SEAG behind host Vietnam and Thailand, respectively.

"It would be hard to defeat the Thais because they have a higher quality of play," said RP mentor Ramil De Jesus.

"Thailand is very tough, but anything can happen especially with our home-court edge," said Negrense Maureen Penetrante, who hails from Silay City. *Christian Irl Tan*

Top MILF leaders to give SEAG . . .

From page A23

hagher Iqbal could not make it to the SEAG opening because of prior commitments.

"Chairman Murad really wanted to be there but he and the other leaders have to attend to their earlier commitments," he said.

North Cotabato Gov. Emmanuel Piñol said that the plane tickets for Murad, Jaafar and Iqbal had already been secured. He said arrangements have also been made to book the said MILF leaders at the Manila Hotel.

To show its sincerity in the peace process, Kabalu said the MILF would be sending instead a team composed of lawyer Cesar Dataya, Von Al Haq of the MILF ceasefire body and Jannati Mimbantas of the MILF's military wing.

Kabalu said he would also attend the opening ceremony.

"I agree with the governor that our participation in the opening rites would help boost the GRP-MILF peace process," he said.

Kabalu said it would also be an opportunity for the MILF to "invite other Asean leaders to support our quest for a just, comprehensive and lasting solution to the decades-old Mindanao problem."

Meanwhile, members of the region's royal houses will also be among the invited guests when the Games open tomorrow.

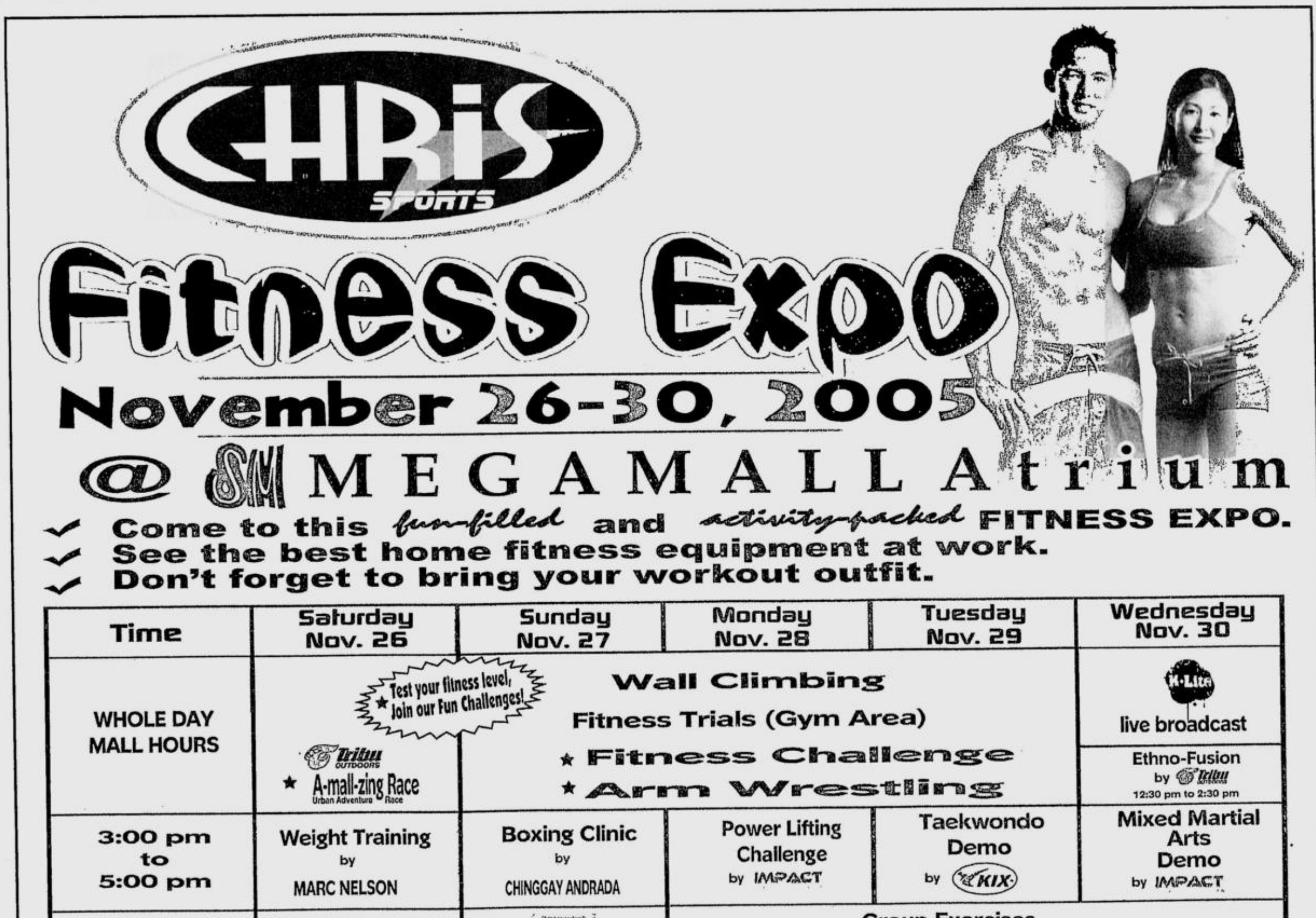
Prince Norodom Ranariddh of Cambodia arrived Thursday to cheer his country's 148-man contingent, organizers said.

Brunei Prince Sufri Bolkiah, who is also president of the oil-rich sultanate's National Olympic Council, is to arrive Friday and stay until Dec. 6, organizers said.

Thai Princess Sievannarvari Nariratana as well as Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn are to also to arrive in separate jets on the same day.

Security has been extra tight as the host country rolls out the red carpet for dignitaries attending the biennial event. *AFP*

POWER UP: Quezon City holds the first QC International Sport-Climbing Open on Dec. 1-4 at the Amoranto Sports Complex. Vice Mayor Herbert Bautista and SAPI director/Power Up head Joey Cuerdo sign the agreement for the event, with Rhauddy Hizon, QC sports director and Fr. Sal Dumabok, secretary to the vice-mayor as witness.



Alapag back as 3-pt shoot king

By June Navarro

LAOAG CITY—JIMMY ALAPAG RECLAIMED his throne as three-point king after outscoring two of the best long-distance shooters in the Philippine Basketball Association today.

Alapag drilled in 15 points and bested Renren Ritualo of Air21 and San Miguel Beer's Dondon Hontiveros in the Finals to regain the crown the Talk 'N Text playmaker captured two years ago.

"It's really an honor every time you shoot against the best shooters in the PBA," said Alapag before a jampacked crowd during the skills challenge of the PBA All-Star Week at the Ilocos Norte Centennial Arena here.

With actress-girlfriend LJ Moreno cheering from the sidelines, the 5-foot-7 Alapag improved on a 14-point output in the eliminations that only ranked him third, four behind the 18 markers of Hontiveros and Ritualo's 15.

Ritualo, finishing second in the shootout for the second year in a row, was slow in getting to the last rack and finished with 14 points with three more attempts left in the final shelf when time expired.

Hontiveros only had 11 points in the finale as the Cebuano hotshot failed to sustain his rhythm in the event supported by Chowking, Accel, Xtreme Magic Sing, Air 21, Eurolux, PGA Cars, Britmix, Richwell Trading, Westmont Pharmaceuticals, Toy Kingdom, Tobi's House of Nuts, First Quadrant and Purefoods.

"I was lucky," said Alapag, who will start for the defending champion North squad in the centerpiece All-Star game tonight. "I shot first and some of my threes fell early, so there was really no pressure at all."

Other entries in the three-point shootout were James Yap of Purefoods (13 points), Alaska's Jeffrey Cariaso (12), Lordy Tugade of Red Bull Barako (12), Ginebra's Sunday Salvacion (10), Coca-Cola's Dale Singson (9) and Cesar Catli of Sta. Lucia Realty (6).

Air21's Ronald Tubid, last year's three-point champion, also bowed out early after finishing with eight points.

SOPHOMORES Niño Gelig and Ranidel de Ocampo double-team rookie Mac Cardona.

GAMES TODAY
(Ilocos Norte Centennial Arena)
3 p.m.—Slamdunk contest/Legends shootout (Finals)
5 p.m.—North vs South All-Stars

San Miguel Beer's Paolo Hubalde won the trick shot competition, beating Mac Cardona of Talk 'N Text and Tubid.

Topex Robinson of Red Bull Barako beat Alaska's Brandon Cablay and Alex Cabagnot of Sta. Lucia Realty to capture the obstacle challenge plum.

Robinson hurdled the course in 30 seconds, 12 seconds faster than defending champion Cablay. Cabagnot finished the challenge in 45 seconds.

In the featured game, the Sophomores banked on the 37-point explosion of Nelbert Omolon to trounce the Rookies, 122-106. The 6-foot-4 Omolon of Sta. Lucia Realty was named Most Valuable Player.

Montaña, Toyota Otis duel before PBL takes a break

THE PHILIPPINE BASKETBALL LEAGUE comes up with a double-header today before taking a break starting tomorrow to give way to the 23rd Southeast Asian Games.

Montaña Pawnshop will vie for solo second against the luckless Toyota Otis Knights in the PBL Heroes Cup starting 2 p.m. at the JCSGO Gym in Cubao.

The Jewels—behind seasoned shooter Alex Compton, Al Vergara and Ariel Capus—have finally settled down as evidenced by their back-to-back triumphs.

While the Jewels will gun for their third straight win, Harbour Centre plays Hapee-PCU at 4 p.m. in a bid to arrest a three-game skid.

Portmasters coach Dindo Pumaren said his squad must find ways to finish strong after having dropped their third straight close encounter.

"We have to learn how to limit our errors down the stretch," said Pumaren after the Portmasters' 74-70 overtime loss to Rain or Shine last Thursday.

Hapee-PCU, though, has recovered from its three-game slide with a 72-46 rout of the Knights last Saturday.

Just like the Portmasters, the Knights have to avoid faltering in the endgame. After leading most of the way, the Knights bowed to the league-leading Magnolia Wizards, 73-64, last Saturday.

Jasmine W. Payo

STANDINGS	W	L
Magnolia	5	0
Montaña	3	2
Granny G.	3	2
R. or Shine	3	2
Harbour	2	3
Hapee	2	3
Toyota Otis	1	4
Far Eastern	1	4

GAMES TODAY
(JCSGO Gym)
2 p.m.—Toyota Otis vs Montaña
4 p.m.—Harbour Centre vs Hapee-PCU

RP booters pull off . . .

From page A23

lead, before peppery winger Emilio Caligdong put the outcome beyond doubt with a right-footed lob that beat goalkeeper Ouk Mic in injury time.

Cambodia got physical with the Philippine squad in the game and was slapped with five yellow cards, including two on Lar Picheyga, who was sent off after his second in the 87th minute.

The RP booters, who bowed to defending champion Thailand, 1-0 in its debut, take a welcome four-day break, before facing another make-or-break situation against Malaysia on Tuesday.

They are expected to watch closely the game between Malaysia and Thailand on Sunday since a victory by the Malays would create a possible triple tie for first place if the Filipinos win on Tuesday and the Thais emerge victorious against Cambodia.

"The boys never gave up in this one but we just have to keep addressing our mistakes and we have four days to do that," said RP XI coach Aris Caslib, whose wards enjoyed a victory run at the Panaad oval to thank the appreciative crowd.

Caslib also singled out Caligdong, Borromeo and Greatwich for making the win possible.

The last time the Philippines won a match in the SEA Games was in 1995 in Chiang Mai, where the Nationals nipped Brunei, 1-0. The country's best finish in the biennial event was fourth, a feat it achieved in 1991.

100-strong workforce carries load for ABC Sports in SEAG

ABC SPORTS HAS DEPLOYED THE BULK OF its manpower and resources to broadcast the country's bid for overall supremacy in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games which starts tomorrow.

At least 100 personnel comprise the ABC Sports workforce, which will cover five major events—boxing, badminton, bowling, indoor volleyball and beach volleyball—in the Games.

Program manager Winston dela Cruz said majority of the human resources will be made up of production staffers (cameramen, writers, technicians and assistants). The coverage will also have an elite cast of directors and on-camera talents.

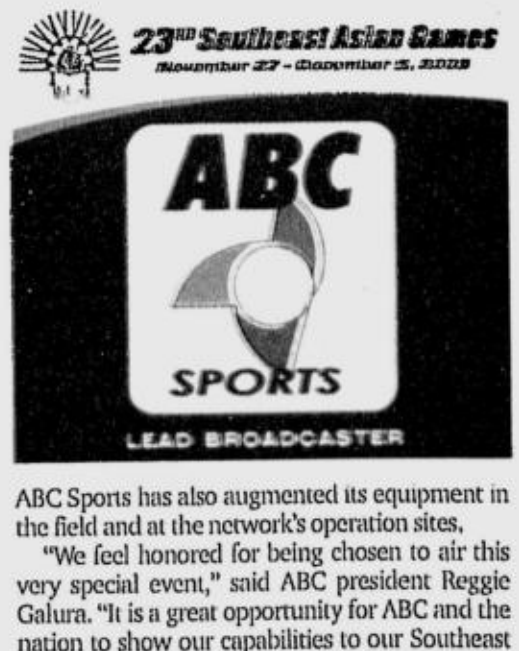
Seasoned PBA broadcasters Quinito Henson, Ed Picson, Mico Halili and coach Norman Black head the list of ABC's on-camera talents.

"This is definitely a difficult task because most of the guys will be coming from the PBA All-Stars in Laoag City and go straight to Bacolod City where boxing and volleyball will be held," said production director Sienna Olaso.

"But we're not complaining. This is for the country," added the former television host.

As lead broadcaster of the regional conclave, ABC Sports has also augmented its equipment in the field and at the network's operation sites.

"We feel honored for being chosen to air this very special event," said ABC president Reggie Galura. "It is a great opportunity for ABC and the nation to show our capabilities to our Southeast Asian neighbors despite our limited resources."



PBA turns Laoag City upside down

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

LAOAG CITY, Ilocos Norte—Despite a couple of 30-minute stopovers, it took us only 8 ½ hours to motor from Cubao, Quezon City, to Fort Ilocandia, here in Laoag where the 2005 PBA All-Star weekend will be staged.

The pace was hectic right from the moment we arrived. A quick shower, a cup of steaming hot coffee and we were off to the airport to meet the rest of the All-Star contingent which took a 45-minute PAL flight from Manila. PBA media bureau Willie Marcial, who traveled with us by land, said there would be a total of 53 participating cagers.

There should have been more, he said, but some stars couldn't make it: John Arigo, Danny Ildefonso, Olsen Racela and defending slam dunk champ Cyrus Baguio who is nursing an injury.

Without a valid excuse, all four stood to be fined a hefty P20,000 each for nonappearance, plus P5,000 for every event where their names were listed.

"There were actually more than four cagers who had initially begged off from the trip but after being informed of the sanctions they faced, they immediately changed their minds," Willie informed us.

* * *

The plane carrying the PBA contingent arrived late. Ginebra's Eric Menk and Air21's John Ferriols were not among the passengers. Although both promised to follow by land, Willie said the no-show at the airport would automatically cost the two cagers P20,000 each.

As the players embarked, each of them festooned with green and red ribbon-garlands, I suddenly realized that a changing of the guards was actually occurring in the PBA without us noticing it.

All the veterans are practically gone from the All-Star lineup, whose senior citizens are now players like Olsen Racela, Danny Ildefonso, Rommel Adducul, Asi Taulava, Danny Seigle and Eric Menk. This year as in last, Seigle topped the polls with 89,802 votes from the fans, followed by Adducul with 52,394, Asi with 48,756, James Yap with 39,438 and Jimmy Alapag with 38,626.

Menk, Ildefonso, Mark Caguioa, JayJay Helterbrand and Marc Pingris, a surprise entry, came in 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th respectively.

Nobody noticed, but the PBA is starting to produce Fil-Am superstars, hopefully from which we could find somebody to fill in the void left by legends like Alvin Patrimonio and Sonny Jaworski.

There were 6 Fil-Ams in the top 10 of the All-Star polls, 5 in the North team and also 5 in the South squad.

* * *

Led by Mayor Mike Fariñas, Laoag is supporting the PBA All-Star weekend in a big, big way, reminiscent of the late '80s and the early '90s. People lined up the streets as the motorcade drove to the Municipal Hall for a courtesy call on Gov. Bongbong Marcos and Mayor Fariñas, who actually beat everyone to the draw by showing up at the airport.

Thursday was like a holiday in Laoag. Students were dismissed from classes just before lunch, so they could watch the motorcade and cheer the cagers. I even saw some ladies dressed in nurses' uniform, also out in the streets. It seemed like the whole city was welcoming the PBA.

As Gov. Bongbong said in his short speech, "The PBA has turned Laoag upside down. *Binaligtad, hininto ang trabaho sa munisipyo.*"

PBA Commissioner Noli Eala was pleased no end by the reception. Like me, it was over and beyond what he expected.

If this is any indication, the PBA certainly has come alive again. The fans are going ga-ga over the players like before, a sign that the league is back in business.

The commissioner agreed that the PBA is undergoing some kind of renaissance.

* * *

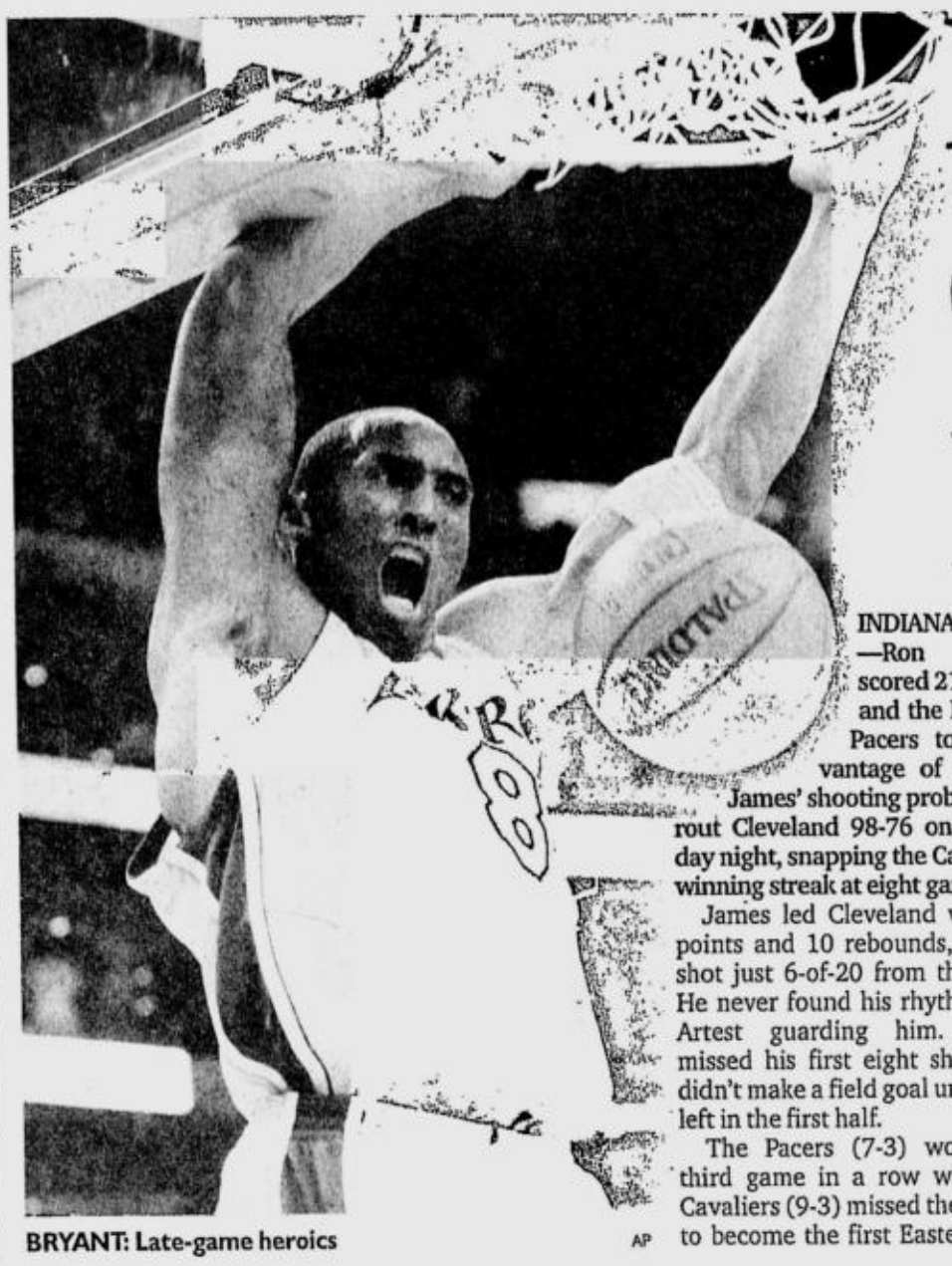
After lunch, the cagers went on a campus tour, returning to the municipal hall for an early dinner. The evening was capped off with the lighting of the huge Christmas tree at the Plaza.

Meanwhile, fellow columnist Quinito Henson awaited the arrival of Purefoods governor Rene Pardo for whom he had reserved some tickets to the Peter and Gordon concert at the Araneta Coliseum on Dec. 1.

"Did you know that Mang Pards used to be the lead soloist of "The Griffins," a local band that sings Beatles and Dave Clark 5 songs and used to appear regularly in the television show '9 Teeners'? One song by the Dave Clark 5 Mang Pards loved to sing was 'Because.' Peter and Gordon will sing it in Manila," Quinito said.

Incidentally, player agent Mike Gonzalez sent a text message from Los Angeles announcing the Nov. 25 arrival of import Victor Thomas, who will replace Alaska's Tee McClary. Mike said Tee had to return to the US posthaste to attend to a major family emergency.

Pacers rip Cavs; Kobe lifts Lakers



BRYANT: Late-game heroics AP

INDIANAPOLIS —Ron Artest scored 21 points and the Indiana Pacers took advantage of LeBron James' shooting problems to rout Cleveland 98-76 on Thursday night, snapping the Cavaliers' winning streak at eight games.

James led Cleveland with 19 points and 10 rebounds, but he shot just 6-of-20 from the field. He never found his rhythm with Artest guarding him. James missed his first eight shots and didn't make a field goal until 1:57 left in the first half.

The Pacers (7-3) won their third game in a row while the Cavaliers (9-3) missed the chance to become the first Eastern Conference team to win 10 games.

Indiana held the Cavaliers to 25 percent shooting (9-for-36) in the first half and took a 47-30 lead into the break.

The Pacers extended their lead to 21 points in the third quarter.

Cleveland averaged a league-best 105 points per game coming in, but was held to 38 percent shooting and tied its season low for points.

Indiana played its second consecutive top-notch defensive game. The Pacers held Houston to 74 points on Sunday.

Sarunas Jasikevicius scored 17 points and made 5-of-6 3-pointers and Jermaine O'Neal added 15 points and nine rebounds for the Pacers.

Drew Gooden scored 16 points and Larry Hughes added 13 for the Cavaliers.

Los Angeles, Kobe Bryant scored 29 of his 34 points in the last 18 minutes, and the shorthanded Los Angeles Lakers rallied to beat Seattle, 108-96.

Bryant had only five points before making a 3-pointer with 5:48 remaining in the third quarter. Then, he scored 11 points in the last 1:33 of the period to spark an 11-4 run that gave the Lakers a 79-71 lead entering the fourth quarter. Lamar Odom added 23 points, 12 rebounds and six assists for the Lakers. *AP*

NBA on Solar

THE SACRAMENTO Kings host the Toronto Raptors today. Solar Sports will bring the action from the Arco Arena starting 11 a.m.

Wie fails to make cut at World Open

KOCHI, JAPAN—MICHELLE WIE BOgeyed her final two holes Friday, missing the cut by one stroke against the men at the Casio World Open.

Wie, who shot a 1-over 73 in the opening round, had three birdies and six bogeys at the Kochi Kuroshio Country Club course for a 3-over 75. She was tied with 11 others for 68th place with a 36-hole total of 4-over 148.

"Obviously, I'm very disappointed," said Wie. "I played as well as I could. I tried my best today but things just didn't work out."

The top 60 players in the US1.7 million (euro1.44 million) Japanese men's tour event made the cut, which was set at 3-over 147. Four players, including overnight co-leader Toshimitsu Izawa, were tied for the lead at 6-under-138.

Wie was on the verge of making the cut but things started to go sour on the par-4 17th.

After hitting the fairway with her tee shot, Wie's approach landed in the greenside rough. She chipped onto the green and then missed a 5-foot par putt.

Because of a backlog of players, Wie then had to wait 20 minutes before playing the par-5 18th.

The 16-year-old American is only the second woman to play in a Japanese men's event. Sophie Gustafson missed the cut in the 2003 Casio tournament.

No woman has made a PGA Tour cut since Babe Didrikson Zaharias in 1945. No one even tried again until Annika Sorenstam teed off at the 2003 Colonial, and only Suzy Whaley and Wie have played PGA Tour events since then.

Wie was making her sixth start in a men's professional tournament. She failed to make the cut in three PGA Tour starts, a Nationwide Tour event and a Canadian Tour event. Despite not making the cut here, Wie said she plans to keep playing in men's events. *AP*

MICHELLE Wie again failed in her bid to make the weekend schedule in men's play. AFP

McEnroe happy to keep record from Federer

LONDON—JOHN MCENROE IS HAPPY to keep his record of highest winning percentage from Roger Federer.

The seven-time Grand Slam champion had been waiting for Federer to take over his win-loss record of 82-3 and finish the calendar year with a higher winning percentage than McEnroe's .965 from 1984.

However, an injury to Federer's right ankle kept him out of action for six weeks and meant he only had a chance to equal the record at the Tennis Masters Cup. Federer then lost to David Nalbandian in the final on Sunday.

"It was nice to see how hard he was trying to beat my record because perhaps now people will realize that it's not easy as it looks to go 82-3," McEnroe said Thursday. "Roger has had a phenomenal year, he came up one short, but while it would have been nice to be tied with him, it is still sort of cool that I still have one record."

Federer finished 2005 with a 81-4 record, winning 11 titles, including his third straight Wimbledon and his second consecutive US Open title. His loss to Nalbandian ended a 35-match winning streak.

In 1984, McEnroe won 14 titles, including Wimbledon and the US Open.

"It puts into perspective how good my year was in '84, that he put in that sort of effort when he probably shouldn't have played," McEnroe said. "People are now going to start believing Roger is human."

McEnroe is in London to compete in the Champions Masters, the final event on the seniors tour, which starts Tuesday at Royal Albert Hall. *AP*

Fil-Am Seniors golf blasts off

BAGUIO CITY—THE SECOND FIL-AM Seniors Invitational golf tournament starts today with an international cast of 195 seeing action at the short but challenging Camp John Hay Golf Club and Baguio Country Club here.

Representing 36 squads from the United States, Hawaii, Guam, Australia, Japan, South Korea and the Philippines, the senior golfers aged 50 and above will tee off at daybreak in quest of team and individual honors.

The teams to beat are Manila Southwoods and Camp Aguinaldo, who captured the Fil and Am division titles, respectively, in the event that provides golfing elders their own championship.

Camp John Hay's Fred Pucket and Federico Eslao of Syndicate Seniors' won the Fil and Am individual trophies last year.

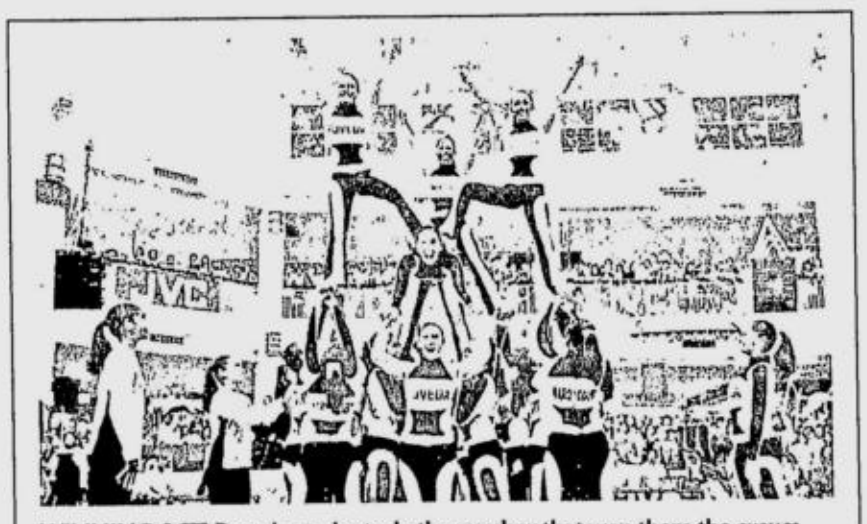
"After the seniors' event, the 56th staging of the regular championship will start Dec. 5, also at both courses," according to BCC general manager Anthony de Leon and John Hay GM Bong Vilchez, co-chairs of the executive committee.

The seniors' event officially started at 4 p.m. yesterday with the hitting of ceremonial drives at John Hay then at BCC for the event backed by Smart Telecommunications Inc., Wilson Sports, Eva Air and Club Car.

Doing the honors were sports and games chair Luis Sison representing BCC president Federico Agcaoili and Camp John Hay Development Co. chief operating officer Benny Cabrieto representing John Hay chair Bob Sobrepeña.

The awardees were Fil-Hawaiian GC's Ric Santos, John Plain, Buddy Malabute, John Basa and Jaime del Rosario and Aalbert Roman, Quintin Claveria, Rodolfo Libas and Alex Cabrera of Pines.

The Fil-Am is also supported by Citibank, San Miguel Corp., Travel Club, Ottica Eyewear, IPI, Ayala Land, Orchard le Tigre, U-Bix, Raymundo's Trophies and Sculptures and Swing Magazine.



WINNING ACT: Poveda students do the number that won them the crown worth P50,000 in the JVC cheer-dance competition, a side-event of the JVC Inter-scholastic Badminton Championships Wednesday. Event highlights will be aired on IBC-13 on Dec. 8 and 9 starting at 3:30 p.m. and on Solar Sports on Dec. 26 and 28 starting at 5:30 p.m., and on Jan. 3 and 5 at 6:30 p.m.

RP 4x4 team enters Malaysia race

"WE ARE READY TO RACE."

This was the text message by Team Philippines' delegation head, lawyer Robby Consunji from Malaysia, after the team's competition vehicle passed the rigid scrutineering process by the organizers of the Rainforest Challenge.

"The team's morale is high," said Consunji, also the president of Maven Management Inc, the official Philippine representative of RFC Malaysia. "Our outlook is optimistic."

The Filipino 4x4 team, composed of Larry Mendiola and Atoy Jamila III, begins their quest today with the staging of the two-day Prologue Special Stages (SS). The result of said stages will be the basis of the start list in the succeeding SS, especially in the arduous eastern jungle terrain of Malaysia in the 10-day competition.

Meanwhile, Luis Cruz, Charge d'Affaires and Consul Antonio Morales led Philippine Embassy officials and staff in welcoming Team Philippines Thursday.

Cruz together with a big group of overseas contract workers rallied upon the team and wished them success into the world's toughest adventure competition.

"Go Team Philippines... Philippines!" This was the loud chants coming from the Filipino community and Pinoy offroad fans as they exchanged pleasantries with our adventure team.

"We're very happy with the warm welcome given us by the Philippine Embassy and our fellow Filipinos here in Kuala Lumpur," said Mendiola in Filipino.

Team Philippines is supported by Columbia Sportswear, Rudy Project, Sunbolt, Dr. Victor R. Potenciano Medical Center (VRPMC), Energizer Hardcase Flashlight, Autotechnika, ARB, Wire Rope Corp. of the Philippines, Blue Dot Outdoor Inc. and Bilstein.

SPORTSWATCH

RP-Japan Racing Festival on

THE MANILA Jockey Club will host the Philippine-Japan Racing Festival 2005 today at the San Lazaro Leisure Park (SLLP) in Carmona, Cavite. Ambassador Ryuichiro Yamazaki of Japan was invited as guest of honor. Three major races will highlight today's card of 13 races to be participated in by the country's top galopers. The Frontier Call Cup sponsored by FAI Corp., the Philippine-Japan Friendship Cup sponsored by the Philippine Racing Commission and the JRA Cup sponsored by the Manila Jockey Club (MJC) and the Philippine Racing Club. The JRA Cup is the complementary race in the country for the Philippine Cup held last April in Nagoya, Japan, which was attended by MJC chair and chief executive officer Alfonso Reyno Jr. and MJC executive vice president and chief operating officer Alfonso Reyno III.

Cavite 7-cock derby Tuesday

PARTICIPANTS of the Cavite 7-Cock International Derby are requested to submit their entries on Monday at the Cavite Coliseum Derby Center and Casino. Entries will be accepted from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., after which matching of bets follows. For inquiries, call 0915-5742399 or 046970481O (look for Ferdie Bautista or Mandy). The three–day cockfest starts on Tuesday with the first round of elimination. Action continues on Dec. 1 and 3. No less than P2 million is up for grabs in the fund-raising derby. Derby sponsors are Pagcor-Casino Filipino and Sagupaan Complexor 3000.

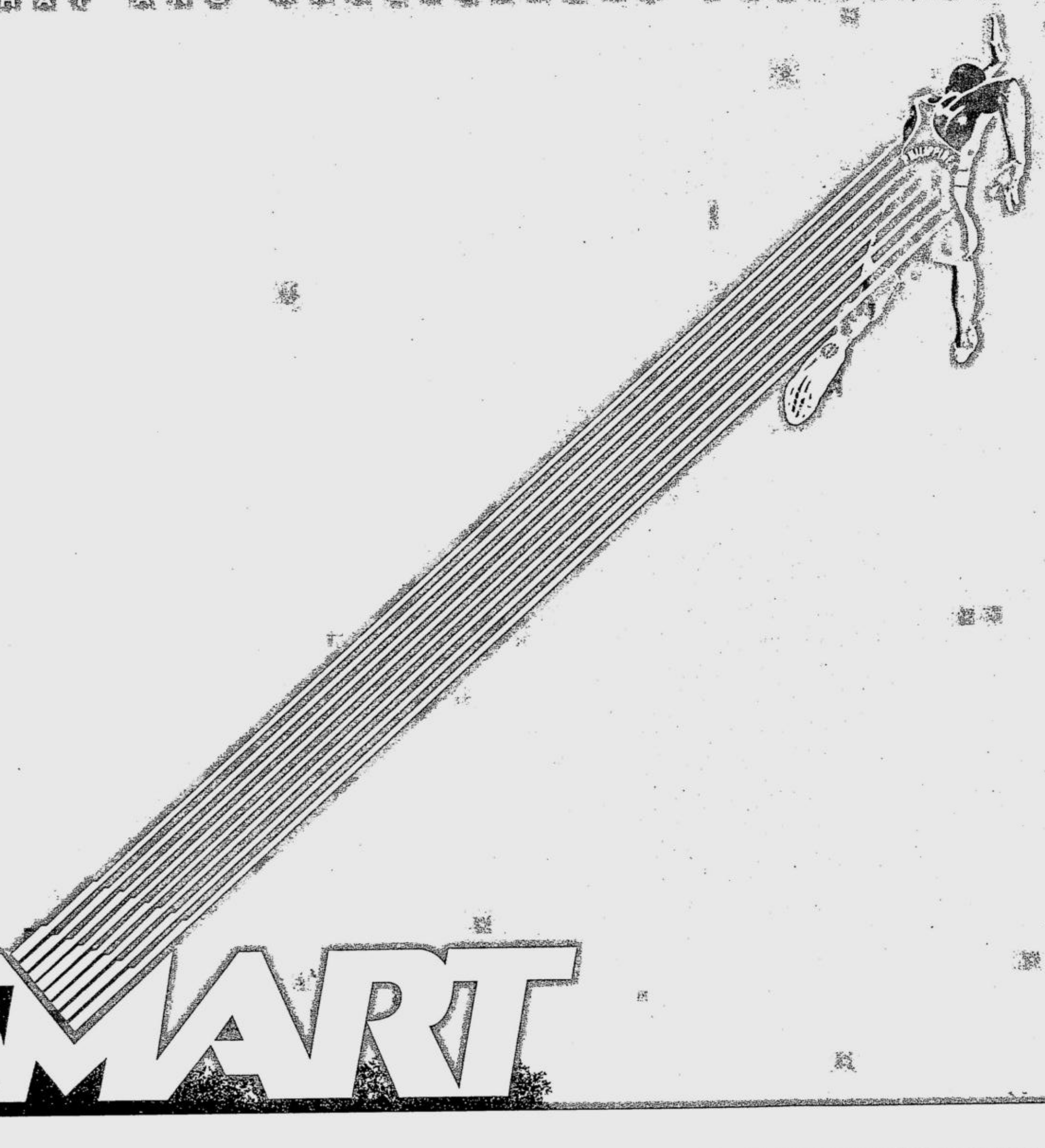
Las Piñas 3-cocker up

MORE than 70 exciting matches are lined up today in a super 3-cock derby at the fully air-conditioned Las Piñas Coliseum. According to coliseum manager Alex Tobias, the big number of entries registered indicates that the molting season is over and the 2005-2006 cock season has already started. Meanwhile, LPC's annual Pamigay Premyo 6-Cock Derby is slated on Jan. 5, 12, 19, 26 and Feb. 2. For details, call 8731040, 8743910, 0926-7450375 and 0920-7501268.

Bakbakan finals start today

THE 2005 BAKBAKAN 9-stag derby, an annual gathering of leading gamecock breeders all over the country, enters its championship round today at Araneta Coliseum. The first of more than 100 fights start at noon. NFGB president Ricoy Palmares said the Bakbakan finals will feature more than 300 fights. The NFGB will stage the second day of the championship tomorrow at the San Juan Coliseum. The remaining fights are scheduled at Araneta on Monday. For details, contact 9113101 and 9112928.

MABUHAY ANG MANLALARONG PILIPINO. YOU ARE SIMPLY AMAZING



SMART

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2005

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SATURDAY Special

E-mail: pr_saturday_special@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Nestor U. Torre
Assistant Editor Rito P. Asilo

Text us your feedback: inquirer sat name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

A2-I

WORLD TRADE CENTER, 10:00 AM - 8:00 PM

NOV 26-27, 2005

@2005

All major credit cards accepted!

Delightful Christmas carols from Mr. C

CAYABYAB. The two-volume collection is a musical treat that aptly describes the holidays the Filipino way.

By Sharon Wendy A. Robas

CHRISTMAS CAROLS BECOME ubiquitous when the "ber" months come, and Christmas albums are prominently displayed in record stores.

Recently, the San Miguel Master Chorale and the San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra released two volumes of the notable collection, "Pasko," produced, arranged and conducted by *maestro* Ryan Cayabyab.

Although the CDs can be purchased separately, both volumes are nevertheless recommended for choral and orchestral music aficionados. The albums' all-*Tagalog* carols are a musical treat that aptly describes Christmas the Filipino way.

Traditional

"Pasko I" features upbeat, traditional Yuletide songs that have captured our hearts since childhood. Although the songs are familiar, their vocal arrangements lend zest to every number—from "Kampana ng Simbahan," "Heto na Naman" and "Tuloy na Tuloy Pa Rin ang Pasko," to carolers' favorites, "Namamasko," "Sa Paskong Darating" and "Mano Po Ninong, Mano Po Ninang," Volume I truly sums up the joy that Christmas brings.

I must admit that "Pasko II" is a personal favorite. Unlike Volume I, this collection contains mellow tunes that include Mr. C's superb melodies and Jose

Javier Reyes' insightful lyrics. The songs speak of love, joy, melancholy, longing, relationships, togetherness—just about every feeling that is most apparent at Christmastime.

For instance, "Ngayong Pasko" summarizes the feeling of having someone to spend Christmas with: *"Hindi ko alam kung bakit nagkaganito/ Parang naiiba sa lahat ang aking Pasko/ Siguro nga'y dahil dumating ka na/ At bawa't* Merry Christmas, *ramdam kong talaga!"*

"PASKO I AND II." Yuletide treats for choral and orchestral music aficionados.

Comic touch

There's a hint of comedy in "Isang Taong Lumipas," even as the song reflects everyday realities: *"May tumaba, may pumayat, may nagtampuhan, may nagkabati, may nagsama't hiwalayan... May ilan sa atin na hindi makakarating/ At may ilan pa sa kanilang 'di na makapipiling."* In the end, however, the song notes that the strong ties that bind relationships make problems and difficulties bearable.

The Cayabyab-Reyes collaboration has created carols that touch the heart!

Democratizing or diluting the National Artist awards

By Nestor U. Torre

EVERY THREE YEARS OR SO, the Cultural Center of the Philippines and the National Commission for Culture and the Arts join forces to honor some of the country's best creative talents with the National Artist award.

Highest standards

This award is singularly important because it sets the highest standards for artistic achievement in this country, for our younger talents to aspire to match in their own creative careers.

Sadly, however, the award has occasionally been compromised by the lowering of standards in favor of certain individuals, for any number of wrong reasons.

That's why it's key for lovers of the arts in the Philippines to do what they can to make sure that the National Artist award goes only to our most truly deserving creative talents.

Selection process

The last time around, we found that the selection process was marred by some insufficiencies, which we scrupulously pointed out. We trust that adjustments have been made in the current process to address those limitations and irritants.

Another possible problem is a perceived move to "democratize" the awards by opening up the nominations to such new areas as fashion design and photography. We're all for democracy but *not* when it lowers artistic standards.

This could result in the dilution of the award, which would be a disservice to the artists who've won it in the past. It could also confuse younger artists, by blurring the lines between art and craft, and thus cause them to set less challenging goals for their own work.

At the very least, therefore, the inclusion of new areas should not be accepted as a matter of course, but needs to be exhaustively discussed by the decision-makers, before any verdict is arrived at.

Another possible trigger point for controversy and confusion is the incipient feeling that the awards should go to younger and/or more popular artists. We have nothing against "younger," provided the relatively young artists have already come up with a truly exceptional body of work.

Potential problem

But, "popular" is a potential problem, because it can be subjective and erratic, and we feel that the National Artist award should go only to artists whose achievements have been truly and consistently outstanding and trailblazing, elements you *don't* usually get in "popular" work.

Other potential flash points include a move to give the National Artist award only to living artists, the PR campaigns of "well-connected" artists, and the "presidential privilege" that occasionally results in the addition of names that haven't gone through the National Artist award's rigorous selection process.

Clearly, these and other issues have to be addressed long before the next batch of honors are announced in 2006. To do less would be a disservice to our best artists, both living and dead.

citibank
It's more than just a credit card.

It's 0% PayLite in over 300 places.

0%
PayLite
INSTALLMENT PLAN

In celebration of our one millionth card, we're giving you more 0% PayLite from August 8 to December 31, 2005. Shop, get fit and indulge in the pampering that you deserve – in longer, lighter payments!

For Inquiries, call 995-9999. To apply for a Citibank Credit Card, call 423-3000 or visit www.citibank.com.ph

0% PayLite is available at these establishments

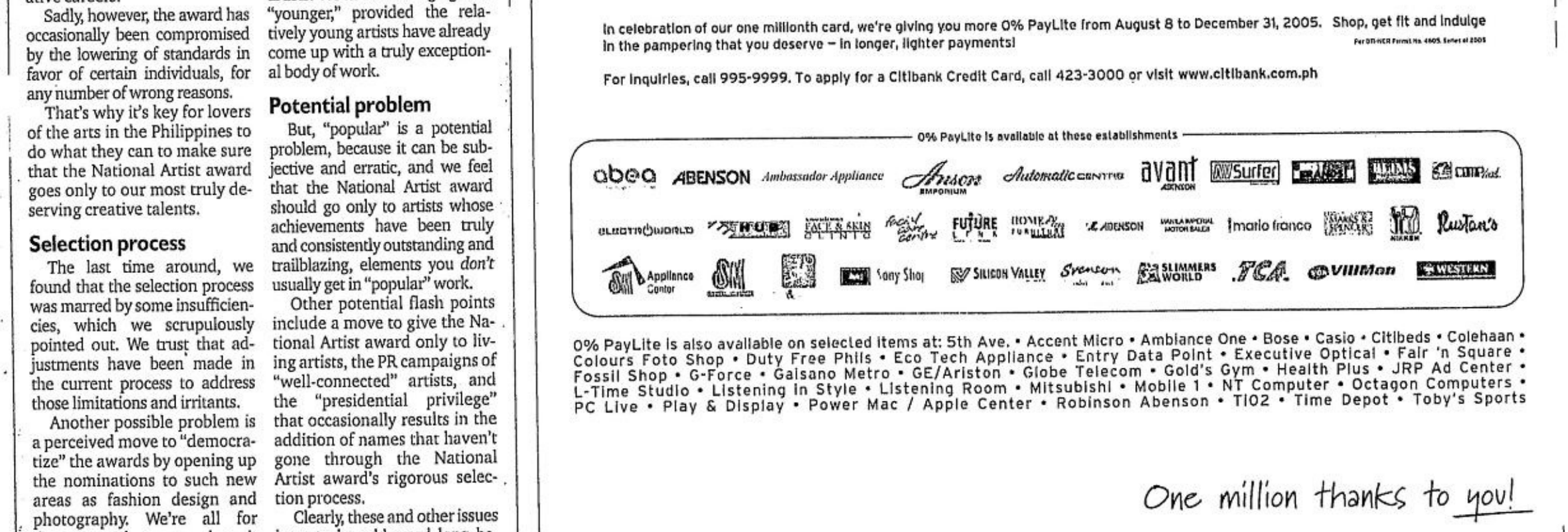
abee · Abenson · Ambassador Appliance · Anson's Emporium · Automatic Centro · avant Abenson · Surfer · Audio Visual Center · Beans · Cellphil · Electroworld · Fcuk · Face & Skin Clinic · Focal Point Center · Future Link · Home Furnishers · Jabenson · Manila Imperial Motor Sales · Mario Franco · Marks & Spencer · Nikken · Rustan's · Appliance Center · SM · Sony Shop · Silicon Valley · Svenson · Slimmers World · TCA · VillMan · Western

0% PayLite is also available on selected items at: 5th Ave. • Accent Micro • Ambiance One • Bose • Casio • Citibeds • Colehaan • Colours Foto Shop • Duty Free Phils • Eco Tech Appliance • Entry Data Point • Executive Optical • Fair 'n Square • Fossil Shop • G-Force • Gaisano Metro • GE/Ariston • Globe Telecom • Gold's Gym • Health Plus • JRP Ad Center • L-Time Studio • Listening In Style • Listening Room • Mitsubishi • Mobile 1 • NT Computer • Octagon Computers • PC Live • Play & Display • Power Mac / Apple Center • Robinson Abenson • TI02 • Time Depot • Toby's Sports

One million thanks to you!

PayLite INSTALLMENT PLAN

citibank



EASTWOOD CINEMAS
Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City
For inquiries, call: 687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1 PRIME 12:45, 2:50, 5:25, 8:00, 10:35 R-13
2 HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE 12:45, 4:10, 7:35, 11:00 GP
3 HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE 12:00, 3:25, 6:50, 10:15 GP
4 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE 11:55, 2:45, 5:35, 8:25, 11:00 PG-13

St. John's Academy at 75

MONTAGE

ST. JOHN'S ACADEMY, ONCE RUN BY THE legendary Marquez sisters, celebrates its Diamond Jubilee today and tomorrow, steadfast in its commitment to quality education.

The great, great grandchildren of Concepcion Marquez Gil continue the tradition. It remains as private, nonsectarian and nondenominational as when it opened in 1940.

Through its portals once walked as youths such art and entertainment luminaries as Joseph Estrada, broadcaster Ronald Estella, UP piano professor Imelda Ongsiako, sculptor Agnes Arellano, talent manager Bibsy Carballo, and everyone's TV *mare*, Winnie Monsod.

In other fields are hotelier Chito Cobarrubias, distinguished biology professor Toto Olivera, renowned child psychologist Dra. Honey Carandang, former Vice President Teofisto Guingona, Trade and Industry undersecretary Tomas Aquino and Philippine Basketball League commissioner Chino Trinidad.

The Alumni Association is sounding the clarion call to all who have been part of St. John's to join in the celebration. Call 724-3069 or 722-7439.

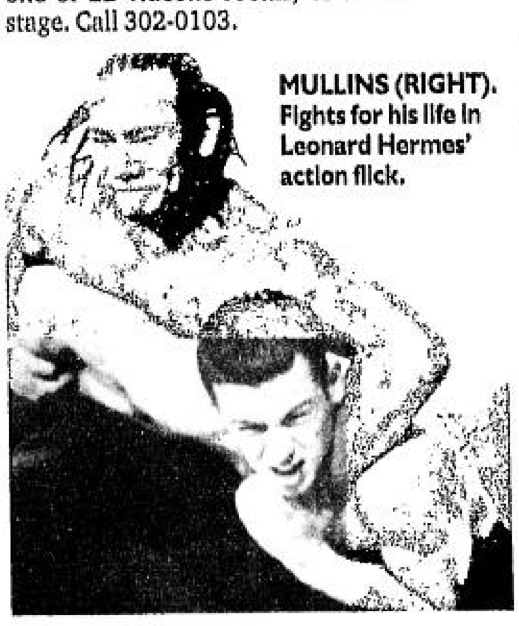
Family fun at G-Box

A family outing with the kids becomes an excitingly new experience at G-Box Amusement Center at the third level of Robinsons Place Manila.

At the 4,000-square-foot family-haven, the crowd favorite is the Gymnasium, a half-court basketball arena that can be converted into a badminton court.

The entertainment center's simulation-game machines include Time Crisis 3, Daytona USA 2, Victory Lap 2, Battle Gear, Counter-Strike and Warcraft.

There are also exciting rides like the convoy and carousel, plus carnival games, games of chance, and a fun and secure day-care facility, the Playbox Kiddie Activity Center. And, after a long day of fun and shopping, you can unwind and sing to your heart's content in one of 22 videoke rooms, or at the Centerstage. Call 302-0103.



MULLINS (RIGHT). Fights for his life in Leonard Hermes' action flick.

'Bloodfist 2005'

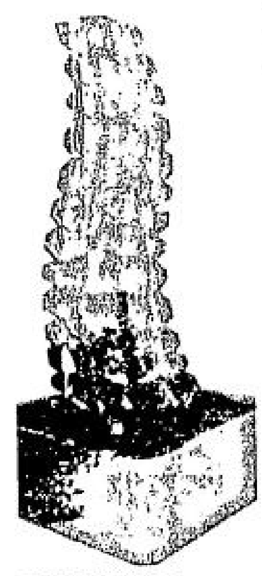
"Bloodfist 2005 (The Legend of the Fist Continues)," a martial arts saga produced by Concorde and New Horizons, opens in town on Nov. 30.

The production pits five-time World Karate Association champion. Matthew Mullins against our very own Taekwondo champion and Asian Olympics gold medalist Monsour del Rosario. The film is written by Michael Carter, and produced and directed by Leonard Hermes.

Asian International Art Exhibition

Works of 46 Philippine artists take centerstage alongside those of their Asian colleagues in the 20th Asian International Art Exhibition, ongoing until March 26, 2006 at the new Ayala Museum in Makati.

Co-organized by the Philippine Committee of the Federation of Asian Artists, (chaired by noted sculptor Ramon Orlina) and Ayala Museum, the exhibition brings together artworks from Japan, Korea, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Taiwan, Macau, Hong Kong, Mongolia and the Philippines. Call 757-7117 to 21.



SCULPTURE by Ramon Orlina is part of Philippine representation at Asian exhibit.

'Enteng Kabisote'

Vic Sotto's comedy starrers always click with Metro Manila Film Festival audiences, and his entry this year, "Enteng Kabisote...The Legend Continues," is again expected to top the filmfest's box office.

This time, the sequel's conflict is more exciting

ST. JOHN'S/ A2-4

MMTA METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION
MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX
1 (DOLBY) HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLE OF FIRE GP
2 (DOLBY) EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE PG13
3 (DOLBY) F FILM FESTIVAL
4 (DOLBY) PRIME
PREMIERE
(DOLBY) HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLE OF FIRE GP

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA (Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (DDS) THE MYTH
2 (SDDS) FLIGHT PLAN
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
5 PRIME
6 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
7 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
8 APRIL SNOW
9 LEGEND OF ZORRO
10 MY LITTLE BRIDE

EASTWOOD CINEMAS (Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72
1 (DOLBY) PRIME
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 (DOLBY) EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE

CINEMA 2000 Movie Theatres of the New Millenium
Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 GHOST INSIDE
2 THE MYTH
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 FOUR BROTHERS
Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall (BIÑAN) tel. (049) 4111146
1 GHOST INSIDE
2 THE MYTH
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 FOUR BROTHERS
Cinema 2000 Cinemagix (Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 DOOM
2 BLADE OF THE ROSE
3 MY SASSY GIRL
Cinema 2000 Metrotown (Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 ADVENTURE OF SHARK BOY & LAVA GIRL
2 CORPSE BRIDE
3 FLIGHT PLAN
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 LAND OF THE DEAD
3 FLIGHT PLAN

CINEMA 2000 Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 THE MYTH
4 MY LITTLE BRIDE

Blue Wave MARQUINTON
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 MY LITTLE BRIDE
3 THE MYTH
4 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto tel 7334228
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
3 THE MYTH
4 PRIME
5 MY LITTLE BRIDE

starmall Movies www.clickthecity.com.ph (Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 THE MYTH
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
5 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 DOOM
3 CRY WOLF
4 RESERVED

Masagana CINEMA (Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 MY LITTLE BRIDE

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 THE MYTH

Jade Cinema (Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 ADVENTURE OF SHARK BOY & LAVA GIRL

Lianas Cinema (Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 HIGH RISK
2 SEX EDUCATION
3 BOLD STAR
4 LOST ISLAND
Lianas MovieCity (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 SYOTA NG BAYAN
3 THE MYTH
4 THE DESCENT
5 FOUR BROTHERS

METROPOLIS star www.clickthecity.com.ph (ALABANG) tel. 8604286, 5433994
1 SEX MEDUSA
2 DOMINO
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
5 RESERVED
6 RESERVED

Cine Nepo (Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121
1 GHOST INSIDE
2 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

Fiesta World Mall (Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
2 GHOST INSIDE
3 SHARK BOY & LAVA GIRL
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

starmall Movies www.clickthecity.com.ph (LAS PINAS) tel. 8735004
1 RESERVED
2

Cine Nepo (Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489
1 MY SASSY GIRL
2 DOOM
3 FLIGHT PLAN
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

Centre Plaza Cinema (Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 DOOM
2 INTO THE BLUE

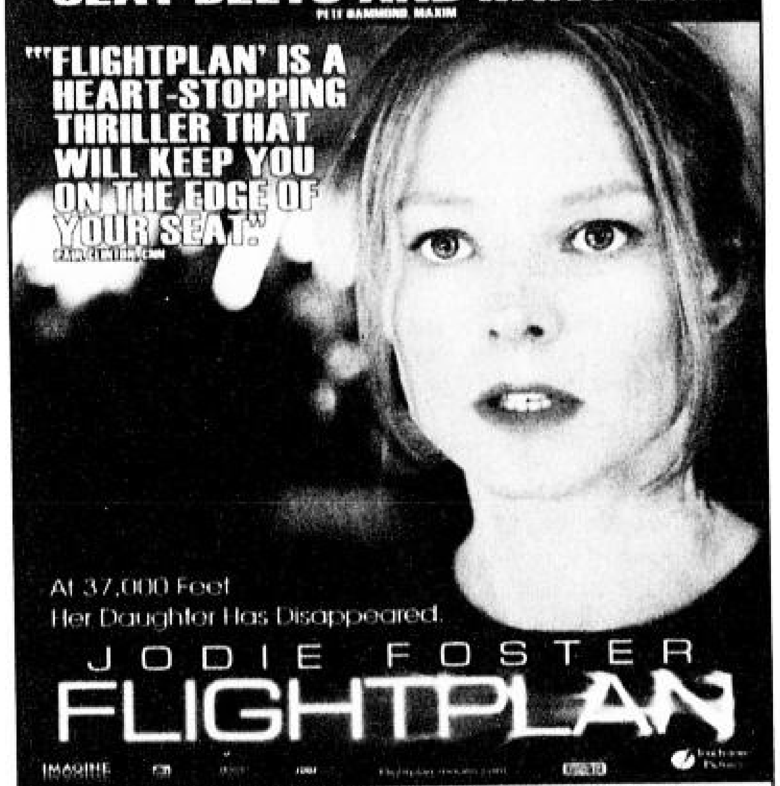
Berma Cinema (Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 ISPIRITISTA
2 MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

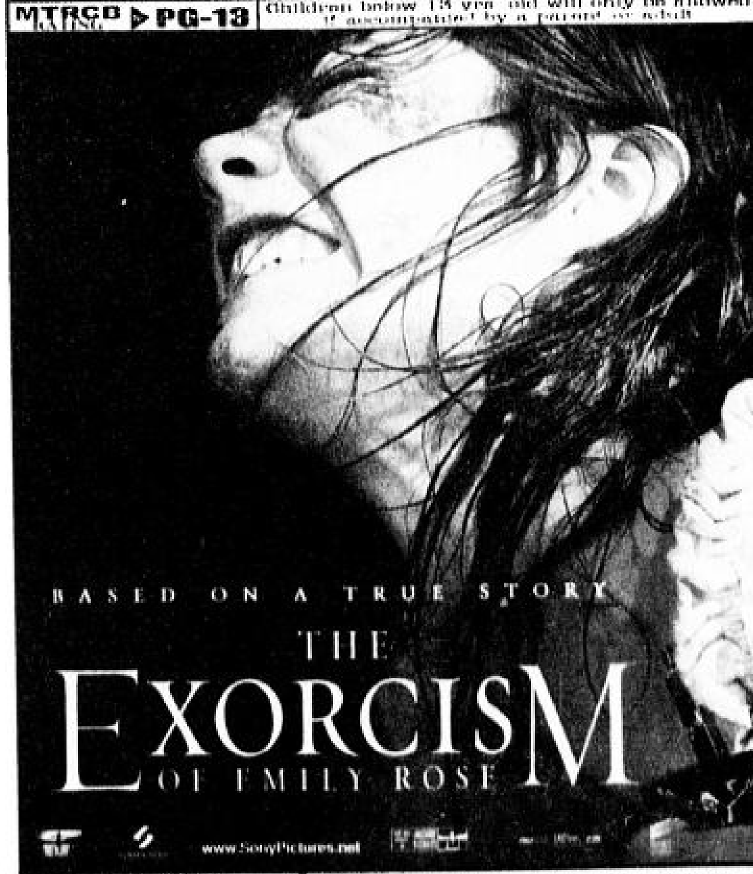
POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City Tel. No: 8981440-41

THE MYTH PG13 12:15,2:45,5:15,7:45,10:15	HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE GP 1:40,4:50,8:00	HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE GP 11:30,2:40,5:50,9:00
EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE PG13 12:15,2:45,5:15,7:45,10:15	PRIME PG13 12:30,2:50,5:10,7:30,9:50	HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE GP 12:30,3:40,6:50,10:00

GREENHILLS CINEMAS
THEATRE MALL GREENHILLS
NOW SHOWING
1 THE MYTH PG13 10:40, 1:10, 3:40, 6:10, 8:40
2 HARRY POTTER & The GOBLET OF FIRE GP - 11:00, 2:20, 5:40, 9:00
PROMENADE GREENHILLS
NOW SHOWING
3 PRIME P13 11:20, 2:05, 4:50, 7:35, 10:20
4 The EXORCISM of Emily Rose PG13 - 11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
5 HARRY POTTER & The GOBLET OF FIRE GP - 12:00, 3:20, 6:40, 10:00
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.
MUSIC MUSEUM November 24, 2005 LANCE REYMUNDO 8PM
November 25, 2005 JIMMY BONDOC 8PM
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL: 721-6726 OR 721-0635

MTRCB PG-13
"GET A TICKET, FASTEN YOUR SEAT BELTS AND HANG ON!"


Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures
3RD WEEK!

NOW SHOWING
MTRCB PG-13


Distributed by COLUMBIA PICTURES

Vassula Ryden marks key milestone

By Nestor U. Torre

RYDEN. Her mission is ecumenical unity of religions.

LAST TUESDAY, WE HAD A VERY inspiring chat with visionary Vassula Ryden, who has been receiving spiritual messages for two decades now. Vassula has come to the Philippines a number of times, and we've talked to her through the years, benefiting greatly from her insightful interpretations of the messages she's been receiving.

This time around, Vassula delighted us when she revealed that, on Nov. 28, she's marking the 20th anniversary of the day in 1985 when she received her first spiritual message! Even better, she's celebrating that key milestone in one of her favorite countries, the Philippines.

Churches

"So much has happened, so many of our Lord's messages have been accomplished," she beamed. "Jesus instructed me to go to every nation, and I've been all over the world, communicating His message of unity for all churches.

"And He said, at a time when it seemed impossible, that Soviet communism would crumble. He predicted, 'I will resurrect Russia as I resurrected Lazarus'—and, it happened!"

Vassula feels that her current mission, ecumenical unity of religions, will happen with similar, miraculous swiftness. Again, given the daunting conflicts that divide many churches, *that* seems to be impossible—but, as has been proven in the past, with God, nothing is impossible!

While she's in the country, Vassula has a full schedule of talks to many groups. What are the major messages that she is sharing with them this time around?

Disasters

"We need to pray much more for ecumenical unity. This is very important. If we remain divided, we'll continue to suffer from the natural and other disasters we've been experiencing more of in the last few years.

Can unity really be achieved? Vassula is certain that it can, and she bases her optimism on experience: Every couple of years, she narrates, hundreds of clergymen and lay people of many different faiths meet in an "ecumenical pilgrimage" with her.

"Initially," she shares, "they start out as strangers. But, after praying, talking and living together for a number of days, they resolve major stumbling blocks, and learn to love one another as children of God. "Even better, they are so fired up with the spirit of ecumenism that they write articles encouraging other bishops and nuns to also push for real religious unity in their own spheres of influence."

We took advantage of our latest conversation with Vassula to ask her about the controversy over a sector of the Catholic Church's negative reaction to her charism some years ago. Her explanation turns out to be a very instructive tale:

"False witnesses went to the Vatican to complain about what they said were unacceptable elements in the messages I received. In fact, the elements they cited *weren't* in the messages. Still, some church officials became alarmed, and a notification was sent out against us.

Initiative

"Many theologians protested, and Cardinal Ratzinger himself, before he became pope, took the initiative to review the matter. The exhaustive process took two years. During it, he sent me five theological questions, to which I responded in a manner that he found credible and responsible, so the process to review my case continued. Happily, it all culminated a year ago in the negative notification being rescinded, and now we're free to continue our work for God."

Vassula felt vindicated when the positive notification came, and went to see Cardinal Ratzinger to thank him personally. She's particularly happy that he's become pope, since her encounters with him have made her an ardent believer in his exceptional attributes as "an honest, good and humble person." *(To be concluded)*

Engaging chemistry in 'Bride'

By Noelani Torre

KIM AND MOON. Forced to marry to fulfill their elders' dynastic ambitions.

YOU MAY NOT HAVE NOTICED, but we've been experiencing a Korean "invasion" for some time now: Korean telenovelas on our local channels, Korean movies in our cinemas, and let's not forget the friendly Korean student who lives just 'round the block!

It's been a perfectly benign incursion, of course, and it adds a little variety to our lives—particularly with regards to our viewing options. This week, it's the romantic comedy, "My Little Bride."

The movie tells the story of Sangmin (Simon) and Boeun (Bea), childhood friends who are forced to marry in order to fulfill their elders' dynastic ambitions. The catch here is that the girl, Boeun, is only 15 years old!

Parental consent

Apparently, people can marry *that* young in Korea, as long as they have parental consent. Lest you start screaming pervert, however, be assured that there is absolutely nothing of that sort going on in the film.

"My Little Bride" is as squeaky-clean as it is charming, with most of the comedy centering on the ways that the two reluctant newlyweds deal with their situation.

Even though their marriage is legal, it's still pretty uncommon, and could cause Boeun a great deal of embarrassment. They try to keep their married state a secret, but things get more complicated when the college-age Sangmin is assigned a teaching internship at her school.

Sangmin and Boeun, played respectively by Kim Rae-Won and Moon Geun-Young, have an engaging chemistry that makes their scenes together more enjoyable to watch. They're just so cute—there's really no other word for it—particularly the fresh-faced Ms. Moon.

Absurdity

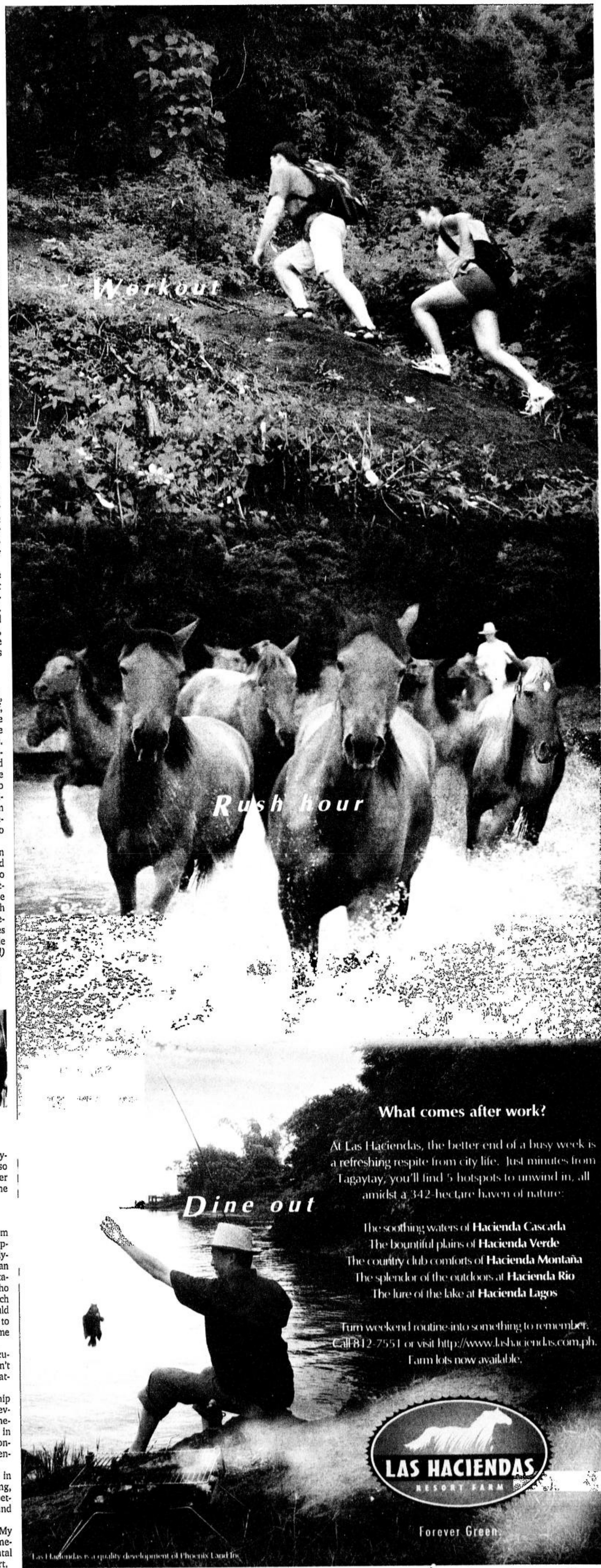
Director Kim Ho-Joon puts them in situations where we can fully appreciate the absurdity of newlyweds who are still more child than adult. They bicker, throw vegetables at each other, fight over who gets to do the dishes, and tease each other. In a different story, this would mean that they're really attracted to each other, and we do get the same vibe here.

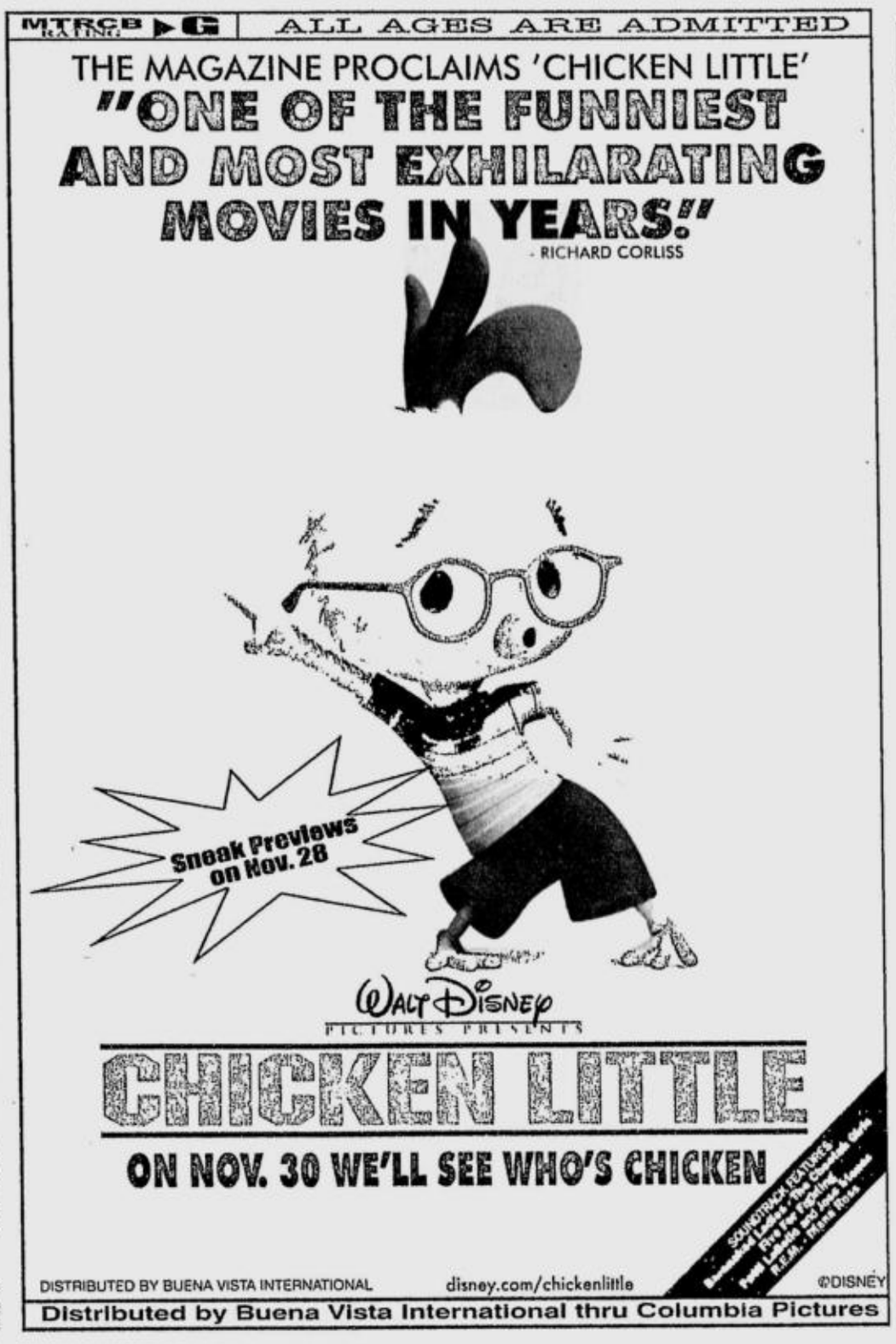
Unfortunately for this particular couple, circumstances don't allow them the time to let this attraction develop and mature.

The story of their relationship flows smoothly and credibly, nevertheless. Sangmin was something of a big-brother figure in the past, and their new relationship seems to be merely an extension of this role.

The film has been dubbed in Tagalog for Philippine viewing, but the subtitled version is better—the dialogue is crisper and funnier.

Dubbing aside, however, "My Little Bride" is a refreshing comedy and, despite its sentimental overtones, it's stimulatingly tart.





A2-4

HERMOSA AND SOTTO. Topbill sequel to popular fantasy flick.

St. John's

From page A2-2

as it revolves not only around Enteng and his family, but also Ina Magenta's sisters, Azul and Verde; the birth of Ada, Enteng and Faye's newest baby, whom Magenta wants to raise as an *encantada*, and the search for a missing medallion that will unite all of Engkantasia.

Other stars include Kristine Hermosa, Oyo Boy Sotto, Aiza Seguerra, Bing Loyzaga, Melanie Marquez, Pauleen Luna and Alice Dixson.

'High on 5'

The Manila Chamber Singers celebrate their fifth anniversary with a concert, "High on 5," at 8 p.m. today at the Philamlife Auditorium.

Repertoire includes Carl Nielsen's "Benedictus Dominus," Josef Karai's "Alelluja" and Janos Vedja's "O Vos Omnes." Call 0917 899-7916.

new C2 Green Tea Lite:

Go light if you like!

Trying to avoid sugar in your drinks? Don't want to sip any extra calories? The good news is your favorite ready-to-drink green tea has just gone light: New C2 Green Tea Lite! Available in two delicious flavors, green tea plain and green tea lemon, new C2 Green Tea Lite is sugar-free and low-calorie.

Extra Health-tea!

Like the regular C2 flavors, C2 Green Tea Lite is brewed from natural green tea leaves so you still get all the wonderful health benefits of green tea in every sip.

Green tea has been proven to be a powerful antioxidant. Antioxidants prevent "free radical formation" which is linked to heart problems, aging and cancer.

Green tea also thins the blood and decreases the possibility of cholesterol formation inside the blood vessels. This reduces the risk on the heart and lowers blood pressure.

The Perfect 10

C2 Green Tea Lite has only ten calories, which actually come from natural tea oils! So with this small amount of calories comes the goodness and health benefits that only real green tea can give you.

And because C2 Green Tea Lite is sugar-free and low-calorie, it can be enjoyed by those trying to lead a healthy lifestyle.

Weight Watcher's Tea-light

Dieting does not have to mean deprivation. With C2 Green Tea Lite, weight watching can be quite enjoyable. You'll still get the delicious and refreshing taste of C2, only this time with less calories and no sugar.

Green tea has been proven to be good for those people trying to lose or maintain their weight because of its thermogenic effect. It initiates faster metabolism causing the body to burn fat at a faster rate. Just imagine, while you're cooling down, your fat is getting burned up!

Made from natural green tea leaves, C2 Lite is a healthier alternative to other diet beverages.

So indulge all you want...because all you'll get is sip after sip of deliciousness and the healthy goodness of green tea.

Light refreshments served here... and everywhere!

Stop at your favorite convenience store or supermarket for a taste of C2 Green Tea Lite. Grab a bottle or two and enjoy some light refreshment wherever you go.

C2 Green Tea Lite is available at a very reasonable price. The suggested retail price of the 355mL bottle is only P14. *Stay Cool! Stay Lite! With new C2 Green Tea Lite!*

SATURDAY Special

Ray Stevenson plays role of a lifetime in 'Rome'

By Edmund L. Sicam

RAY STEVENSON'S name may not ring a bell for many moviegoers and television viewers today, but that may soon change when HBO launches its latest original production, "Rome" in Asia tomorrow, Nov. 27 at 9 p.m.

Soldiers

Ray plays a key role in the $100-million, 12-part series, about two plebeian Roman soldiers who get involved in the pivotal events that led to the fall of a Republic and the creation of an empire.

Stevenson sat down with members of the Asian entertainment press recently at the Four Seasons resort in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

He describes his role as Titus Pullo as the assignment of a lifetime. For the past 11 years, he has only appeared on British television and a few full-length features ("King Arthur," "Theory of Flight"). After his appearance in "Rome," which already premiered in the United States, Hollywood has suddenly taken notice of him.

The 41-year-old actor was finishing some scenes in "King Arthur" when he got the script of "Rome." "It was unlike any other script I'd read," says Stevenson. He didn't expect to get the role when he auditioned. "I told myself, 'I'll just go and have some fun.'" Much to his surprise, the casting director told him he was just the person they were looking for!

Since this was a 12-part series, shooting stretched for one-and-a-half years in Rome, where HBO had built the largest standing set in the world, costing $10 million!

Physically exhausting

"It was physically exhausting," says Stevenson. "We spent three days to finish a fight sequence—for one episode! We did this while wearing authentic metal helmets, armors and sandals. Those helmets can really heat up when the sun is up."

To the actor, however, the more important thing was to make his character come alive on the screen. Pullo was a lovable rogue with a huge appetite and amoral tendencies, so it was a fun role to do.

Stevenson adds, "I had to make him true-to-life, not a caricature." He went through a two-week boot camp with cast members who were playing soldiers.

When it came to talking about his private life, Stevenson was very forthcoming. Before anyone could ask the question, he already volunteered the information that he was married once for seven years. His divorce had just come through, and he is in a relationship with an Italian woman he met while filming "Rome."

Stevenson was born in Northern Ireland. His dad was a pilot in the air force, while his Irish mom was a homemaker. When political trouble started in Belfast, his parents moved the family to Newcastle in England, and *that's* where the acting bug bit him— at age five!

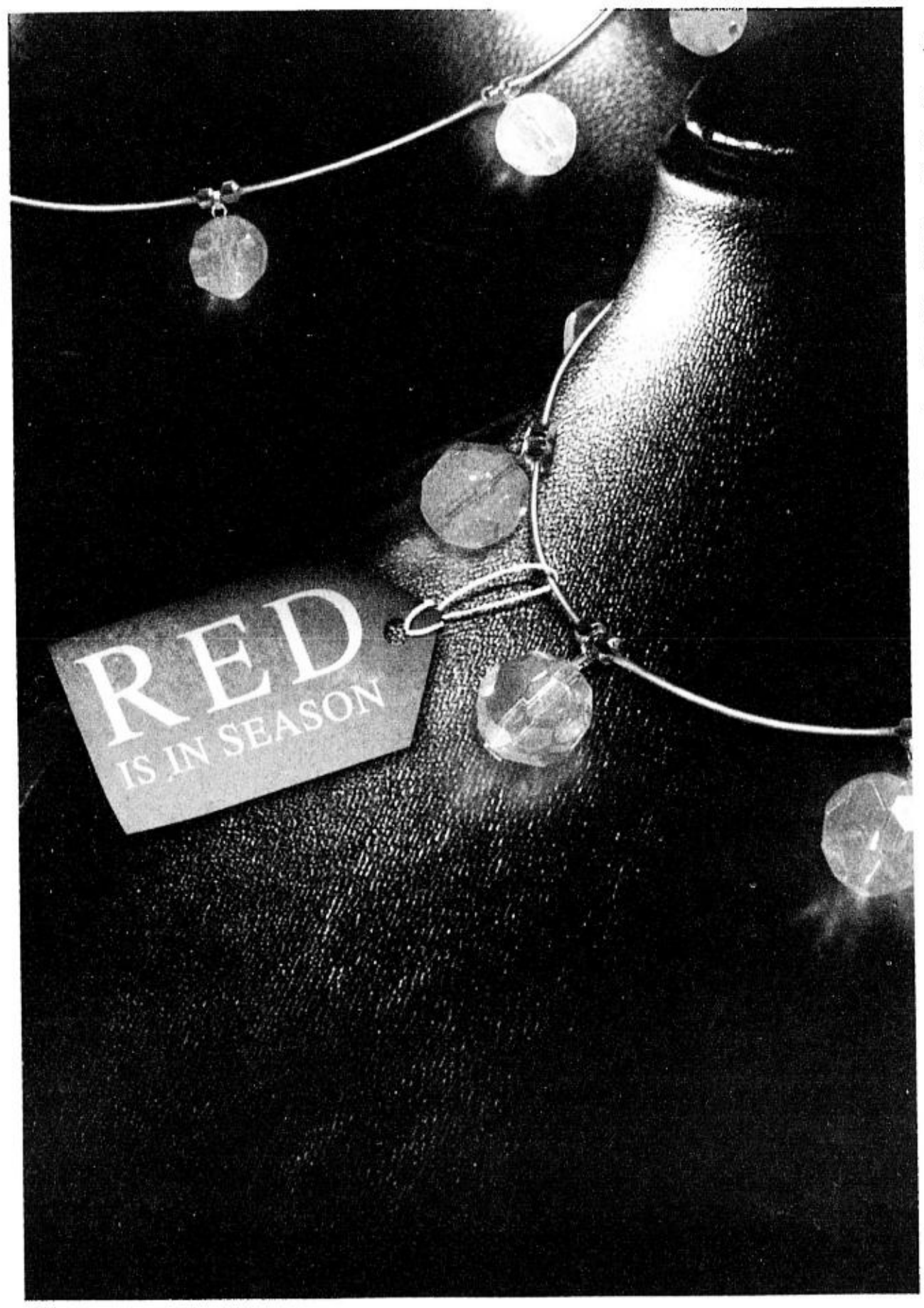
Unlike other actors who had to wait a long time before getting assignments, Stevenson says he was able to find work right after finishing drama school. He was already 29 when he started his acting career, so he concentrated on making a name for himself as a character actor.

Danger

Because of his height (6'4"), he was in danger of being typecast in certain types of roles, such as a police officer or a soldier, so he made a special effort to look different in every project he appeared in.

When Stevenson met the press, he was totally different from the character he played in the series. He looked like a dashing matinee idol and reminded me very much of Russell Crowe. When I told him about this, he said he felt flattered, because he admired the Australian actor, but stressed that his personal life was not as colorful as Crowe's!

STEVENSON. Makes special effort to look different in every part he plays.



AT THE BAZAARS!

Get FREE entrance, FREE tote bags*, or special discounts** with your RED MasterCard at these bazaars:

Noel: Discovery Bazaar and Christmas Shop Expo	Nov 26-27	Hall C, World Trade Center
Rotary Club of Makati District 3830: 18th Annual Christmas Bazaar	Nov 27	Grand Ballroom Hotel InterContinental
A Glimpse of Christmas	Nov 30	Grand Ballroom Hotel InterContinental
Wack-Wack Yuletide Blessings Bazaar	Dec 3-4	Wack-Wack Golf and Country Club Multi-Purpose Hall
St. James The Great Bazaar	Dec 3-4	Cuenca Community Center Ayala Alabang Village

*With a minimum single-receipt purchase of Php500.00.
**Benefits per bazaar may vary.

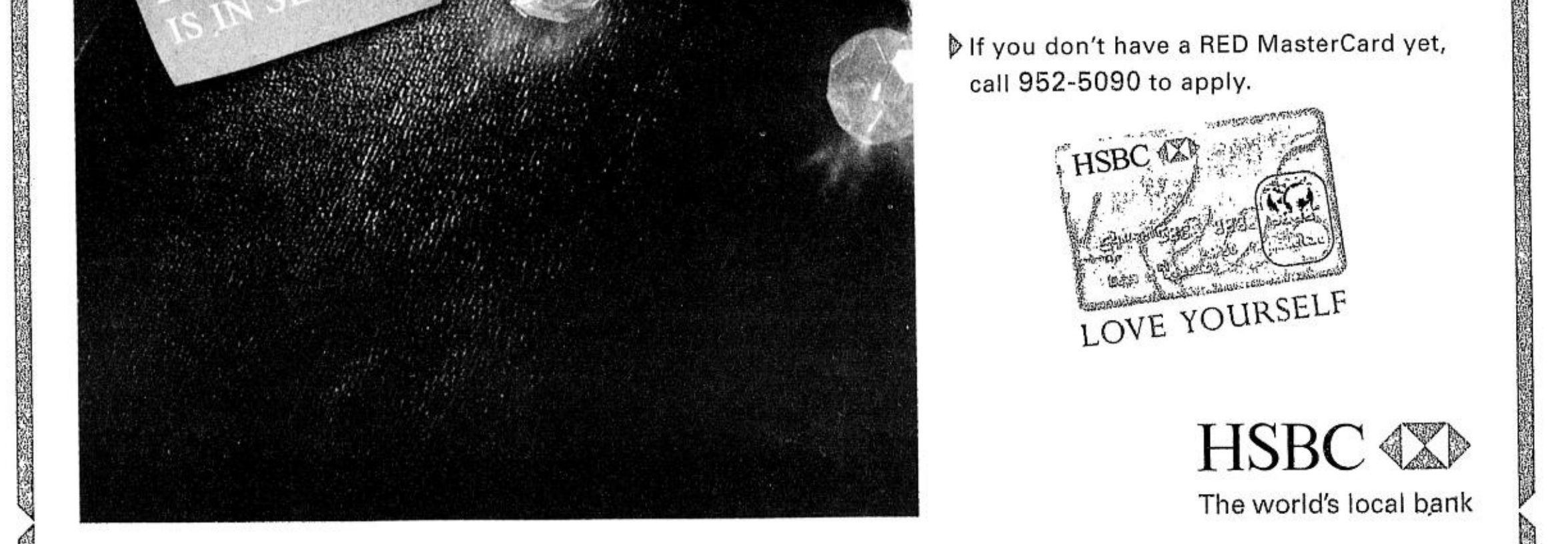
If you don't have a RED MasterCard yet, call 952-5090 to apply.

LOVE YOURSELF

HSBC
The world's local bank

Issued by The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 6037. Series of 2005
Promo period is from Oct 15-Dec 31, 2005. See flyers for details



SIMPLE PLAN. Knows how to please its audience.

Concert album brims with youthful effervescence

By Noelani Torre

SIMPLE PLAN IS THE KIND OF BAND THAT opens its concert album with "What's up, Hard Rock Orlando?," exhorts its audience to "Jump," and politely thanks them afterward. Also, as the concert album, "MTV Hard Rock Live" shows, Simple Plan knows how to please its audience.

A record of the band's concert at the Orlando Hard Rock that originally aired on MTV shows us how effective this punk-pop quintet is in keeping its fans happy. And judging by the endless squealing and nonstop jumping caught on video, the fans in Orlando were very happy, indeed.

High note

The concert begins on a high note with the fist-punching, hands-in-the-air anthem, "Shut Up!" The crowd immediately starts singing along, and lead singer Pierre Bouvier eggs them on whilst prancing across the stage, and jumping up and down strategically placed boxes.

The rest of the band is almost equally energetic, constrained only by their instruments—drummer Chuck Comeau pounds away, guitarists Jeff Stinco and Sebastian Lefebvre wield their guitars like weapons, and bassist David Desrosiers leaps excitedly in place.

What is impressive about this show of youthful spirits, however, is that it is unflagging. The band sustains the pace all throughout the concert. Of course, all this effervescence is a well-known punk-pop characteristic, but Simple Plan just seems to be even bouncier than its contemporaries.

Perhaps this is due not only to the sound, but also to the band's attitude and choice of subject matter. These guys sing "Don't wanna think about tomorrow/ Jump!" and "I'm just a kid!" They just want to have fun. Even their whining is harmless and relatively light.

Hits

"MTV Hard Rock Live" features all of Simple Plan's hits from its two albums—"No Pads, No Helmets…Just Balls" and "Still Not Getting Any…" (Note the less than grown-up choice of titles.) You'll also find other hits like "Addicted," "Welcome to My Life" and "Perfect."

The CD package includes a DVD of the concert, three bonus acoustic tracks in the CD, and 32 pages of pictures from the band's tour. There's a lot of talking in between songs, and though non-fans may find it annoying, fans will be buying the CD to hear it.

Crisp

The sound is crisp and clear, and Simple Plan performs well live. The singer doesn't go off-key, the drums sustain the rhythm, and the band's pulsing sound is perfect for live performances.

Bouncy, clean, and energetic, it isn't hard to see why this quintet from Montreal is at the top of the punk-pop heap. If you're not 15, however, you may want to listen to some Green Day afterwards, just so you remember that punk *can* actually be smart and edgy.

SM CINEMA movietime
CALL NOW 833-8999
NOW SHOWING
Box Office News Movie Schedules Live Events
SM CINEMA CENTER Stage

movietime EXCLUSIVE
Samuel Jackson Eugene Levy
The MAN
Directed by Les Mayfield
DISTRIBUTED BY PIONEER FILMS
OFFICIAL MEDIA PARTNERS
COMING SOON ON NOVEMBER 30
Bacoor, Cleintes, Fairview, Las Piñas, Manila, Megamall, North EDSA, San Lazaro, Sta. Mesa, Sucat, and Valenzuela

movietime EXCLUSIVE
MEL GIBSON
PAPARAZZI
Meet the successful Bo Laramie, who realized that stardom comes with a price, as four persistent photographers had their dishonest ways just to get his every move.
WATCH TODAY AND GET 1 PLDT VIBE CARD FOR EVERY 2 TICKET PURCHASE
North EDSA, Megamall, Sta. Mesa, Fairview, Manila, Las Piñas, Bacoor

PREMIERE
movietime SCHEDULE AND EVENTS
Megamall HARI NG SABLAY Nov. 26 • Cinema 2
Megamall ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS Nov. 29 • Cinema 2
Manila JUST LIKE HEAVEN Nov. 28 • Cinema 6
Megamall AN UNFINISHED LIFE Dec. 1 • Cinema 2
LOOK WHO'S WATCHING AT SM NORTH EDSA! CHICKEN LITTLE IN CINEMAS NOVEMBER 30

GUARANTEED SEATS

THE PODIUM 633-8976
1 HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE 11:40FS/12:10MF/03:20/06:30 09:10LFS/09:40LMF/12:20END
2 PRIME 11:30FS/11:55MF/02:10/04:25/06:40 08:30LFS/09:00LMF/10:50END
MEGAMALL
1 HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE 11:00FS/11:30MF/02:40/05:50 08:30LFS/09:00LMF/11:40END
CEBU (032) 231-3876
1 CHILDREN OF EDEN
2 THE MYTH 10:30FS/10:40MF/12:50/03:00/05:10/07:20 09:18LFS/09:30LMF/11:30END
3 HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE 11:55FS/12:15MF/03:20/06:25 09:05LFS/09:30LMF/12:10END
MANILA
6 PAPARAZZI 10:45FS/11:10MF/12:55/02:40/04:25 06:10/07:55/09:20LFS/09:30LMF/11:05END

METRO MANILA

SM MEGAMALL
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 FLIGHTPLAN
3 MY LITTLE BRIDE
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
5 PRIME
6 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
7 PAPARAZZI
8 APRIL SNOW
9 THE MYTH
10 RESERVED
11 LEGEND OF ZORRO
12 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 PAPARAZZI
2 MY LITTLE BRIDE
3 LAND OF THE DEAD
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
5 PRIME
6 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
7 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
8 THE MYTH
9 FLIGHTPLAN
10 LEGEND OF ZORRO
11 ISPIRITISTA
12 APRIL SNOW

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
1 THE MYTH
2 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
3 PRIME
4 RESERVED
5 RESERVED
6 PAPARAZZI
7 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
8 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

SM CITY STA. MESA
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
4 THE MYTH
5 RESERVED
6 PRIME
7 FLIGHTPLAN
8 PAPARAZZI
9 APRIL SNOW
10 LEGEND OF ZORR

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 RESERVED
4 THE MYTH
5 PRIME
6 LEGEND OF ZORRO
7 FLIGHTPLAN
8 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
9 PAPARAZZI
10 APRIL SNOW

SM CITY MANILA
1 THE MYTH
2 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
3 MY LITTLE BRIDE
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
5 LEGEND OF ZORRO
6 PAPARAZZI
7 APRIL SNOW
8 FLIGHTPLAN
9 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
10 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
11 ISPIRITISTA
12 PRIME

SM CITY BICUTAN
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 THE MYTH
3 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
1 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
2 THE MYTH
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

SM CINEMA SAN LAZARO
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
3 THE MYTH
4 PRIME
5 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
6 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

SM VALENZUELA NOW OPEN
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 THE MYTH
3 MY LITTLE BRIDE
4 DUBAI

TONIGHT!
Sheryn Regis' Birthday Concert Treat
SM CINEMA CENTER Stage
Concert Cinema 10 SM Mega Mall 7:00 p.m. Nov. 26, 2005

LUZON

SM CITY PAMPANGA
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 DOMINO
4 ISPIRITISTA
5 HISTORY OF VIOLENCE
6 THE MYTH

SM CITY BACOOR
1 MY LITTLE BRIDE
2 ISPIRITISTA
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
5 THE MYTH
6 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
7 FLIGHTPLAN
8 PAPARAZZI

SM CITY DASMARIÑAS
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 ADVENTURE OF SHARKBOY & LAVA GIRL
3 CRY WOLF
4 THE MYTH

SM CITY BAGUIO
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 THE MYTH
3 FOUR BROTHERS
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

SM CITY LUCENA
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
4 ADVENTURE OF SHARKBOY & LAVA GIRL

SM CITY MARILAO
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 ADVENTURE OF SHARKBOY & LAVA GIRL
3 HISTORY OF VIOLENCE
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

SM MOLINO NOW OPEN
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 THE MYTH
4 MY LITTLE BRIDE

SM CITY BATANGAS
1 ADVENTURE OF SHARKBOY & LAVA GIRL
2 MY SASSY GIRL
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
1 STAGE PLAY: CHILDREN OF EDEN
2 THE MYTH
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 FOUR BROTHERS
5 THE GHOST INSIDE
6 FLIGHTPLAN
7 LEGEND OF ZORRO
8 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

SM CITY ILOILO
1 UNDISCOVERED
2 RESERVED
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 FLIGHTPLAN
5 AB-NORMAL BEAUTY
6 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
7 RESERVED
8 TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE

SM CITY DAVAO
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 WAITING
3 FOUR BROTHERS
4 THE GHOST INSIDE
5 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
6 THE MYTH

1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE
3 ADVENTURE OF SHARKBOY & LAVA GIRL
4 DOOM

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE
FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

SHANG CINEPLEX
1 HARRY POTTER 4 MTRCB GP FS 12:15, 3:30, 6:45, 10:00pm LMF
2 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE MTRCB PG-13 FS 1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00pm LMF
3 F FILM FESTIVAL
4 PRIME MTRCB R-13 FS 1:40, 4:10, 6:40, 9:10pm LMF
PREMIERE THEATRE HARRY POTTER 4 MTRCB GP FS 11:15, 2:30, 5:45, 9:00pm LMF
Catch the Cineplex Special
A Blockbuster Gift for All Season
The Shang Cineplex Gift Certificates
Treat your family and friends to a thrilling movie experience only at the Shang.
Cinema Treats-for Cinema 1,2,3,4.
Premiere Rewards-for the Premiere Theatre.
Regular Ticket Price Cinemas 1 to 4 - P150
Premiere Theatre - P295 (includes unlimited popcorn and beverage)
Call 633-7851, loc. 171 or 633-2227 / 633-4735 for more details.

FREE ADMISSION
First come, First served
and SHANG CINEPLEX
THE F FESTIVAL
The Feminist Centennial Filmfest
CINEMA 3
Nov.23 (Wednesday)
Iron Jawed Angels (U.S.A.) by invitation only
Nov.24 (Thursday)
1 pm : Say I Do (Canada/Philippines) & Ynang Bayan (Philippines)
4 pm : Iron Jawed Angels (H.B.O./U.S.A.)
7 pm : A Little Color (Switzerland)
9:30 pm : Phir Milenge (India)
Nov.25 (Friday, Filipino Day)
1 pm : Ang Tanging Ina
4 pm : Minsa'y Isang Gamu-Gamo
7 pm : Bata, Bata, Paano Ka Ginawa?
9:30 pm : Moral
Nov.26 (Saturday)
10:30 am : Symposium
1 pm : She Says: Women In News (U.S.A.)
4 pm : A Little Color (Switzerland)
7 pm : To Doy Mis Ojos (Spain)
9:30 pm : The Road Home (China)
Nov.27 (Sunday)
1 pm : Dahil minahal Kita (Philippines)
4 pm : Say I Do (Canada/Philippines) & Ynang Bayan (Philippines)
7 pm : Baran (Iran)
9:30 pm : Iron Jawed Angels (U.S.A./H.B.O.)
Nov.28 (Monday)
1 pm : Everyone Loves Alice (Sweden)
4 pm : Manthan (India)
7 pm : Frida (Mexico)
9:30 pm : Anak (Philippines)
Nov.29 (Tuesday)
1 pm : Tumaini (Tanzania)
4 pm : Baran (Iran)
7 pm : The Road Home (China)
9:30 pm : She Says: Women In News (U.S.A.)
* Tickets will be available two (2) hours before each screening time at the Shang Cineplex ticket booth (Level 6). Strictly one (1) ticket shall be issued per person.
Shangri-La Plaza

Araneta Center Leisure Guide
The Season's best buys at bargain prices!
Absolutely Christmas HOLIDAY BAZAAR at Ali X ALI MALL EXCHANGE
November 11 to January 6
Ground Floor in front of Jollibee Ali MALL Araneta Center
CINEMA SCHEDULES
Gateway CinePlex 10 LEVEL 4, GATEWAY MALL
ONLY P90 ADMISSION P120 RESERVED SEATS P140 HARRY POTTER GLOBE PLATINUM P249 / P299
DOLBY DIGITAL-EX
FOR INQUIRIES, PLEASE CALL TICKETNET AT 911-5555
HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE 12:40 / 1:20 / 2:20 / 3:10 / 3:40 / 4:20 5:20 / 6:20 / 6:40 / 7:20 / 8:20 / 9:30 / 9:40
PRIME 1:05 / 3:50 / 6:35 / 9:20
THE MYTH 1:15 / 4:00 / 6:45 / 9:30
EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE 1:30 / 4:10 / 6:50 / 9:30
GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA
HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE 3:00 / 6:00 / 9:00
APRIL SNOW 2:00 / 4:20 / 6:40 / 9:00
FLIGHT PLAN 2:00 / 4:30 / 7:00 / 9:30
ALI MALL CINEMAS
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET 12:00 / 2:50 / 5:40 / 8:30
2 THE MYTH 12:20 / 3:05 / 5:50 / 8:35
3 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE 12:10 / 2:50 / 5:30 / 8:10
4 MY LITTLE BRIDE 12:30 / 3:00 / 5:30 / 8:00
5 PRIME 12:25 / 3:10 / 5:55 / 8:40
ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS
PETER & GORDON - WORLD REUNION TOUR December 1, Thursday 8:30 pm
MICHAEL BOLTON LIVE IN MANILA December 7, Wednesday 8:00 pm
CENTER EVENTS
Everything Christmas HOLIDAY BAZAAR
Toys and gifts galore! November 11 to December 11, Cinema Level Near Oasis Gateway Mall
LOG ON TO www.aranetacenter.net FOR MORE DETAILS OR TO SUBSCRIBE TO OUR WEEKLY E-MAIL ENTERTAINMENT UPDATES

Sizzling star suits recalled

By Nestor U. Torre

WHEN CELEBRITIES FEEL THEY'VE been wronged and get fighting mad—watch out! They hire expensive lawyers with the killer instinct of piranhas, hale their alleged persecutors to court, and slap them with legal suits with hefty penalties attached to them.

Steamy

The action is similarly steamy and pricey when the tables are turned and it's the stars who are charged, and have to pay through the nose. Some headline-hugging examples:

In 1996, Tom Cruise sued a German magazine for $60 million for purporting to have interviewed him. During the allegedly spurious interview, Cruise was quoted as saying that he was sterile—with a sperm count of zero!

Tit for tat, Pamela Anderson Lee was sued for $5 million by the producers of "Hello, She Lied," a film which she apparently committed to and then bucked out of—just as principal photography was scheduled to start.

After the release of her concert film, "Truth or Dare," Madonna was sued by three of her dancers, who claimed that she had invaded their privacy by using footage of them without their consent. The suit was settled out of court.

CARICATURE BY STEPH BRAVO

CRUISE. Spurious interview.

Manuscripts

Joan Collins was sued by her book publisher, Random House, who said the manuscripts she turned in to fulfill her two-book deal were so badly written that they were simply unpublishable.

But, Collins countered that her contract specified that she only had to submit two complete manuscripts—good, bad or indifferent. The outcome: Collins prevailed.

For her part, Sondra Locke took former lover Clint Eastwood to court for fraud, claiming that he had promised to get her a directing deal with Warner Bros.

She said that he sabotaged the deal, resulting in a "message to the film industry and the world" that she "was not to be taken seriously." Eastwood ultimately settled with Locke out of court.

Oil from lemongrass

WHEN WE VISITED A WELLNESS EXHIBIT recently, one booth caught our attention because it was offering products that use lemongrass oil.

When we hear of grass, we think of Bermuda grass, carabao grass or weeds. When grass grows amongst our plants, our first instinct is to pull it out. But, lemongrass is a desirable grass that we can plant in our gardens. It's cheap, and it's easy to maintain and propagate. To top it all, it has healing benefits!

Brochure

A local company called Gold in Grass Corporation is promoting the use of products with lemongrass oil. Its brochure explains its uses:

Pure lemongrass oil, like other essential oils, is calming, refreshing and relaxing. It can be used in a variety of ways at home and at work:

Inhalation: Add one to nine drops of pure lemongrass oil to hot water and inhale the steam by covering your head with a towel (to prevent steam from escaping). The steam helps open skin pores, absorbing more oil and giving the additional benefit of a facial.

Beneficial

Compresses: Cold and hot compresses are beneficial. Add two to three drops of lemongrass oil to a bowl of hot or cold water. Dip a hand towel, then squeeze out excess water. Place towel on the area to be treated.

Spice: This brand of lemongrass oil (GIGC) is food-grade. It is safe to use as a flavoring in cooking. Use it for vegetable curries or barbeque marinades.

Miscellaneous uses: Lemongrass oil can be added to water used for cleaning the house.

Gold in Grass Corporation also produces lemongrass hydrodistillate, which is a by-product of the distillation process. It alleviates dysmenorrhea.

We have personally tasted lemongrass tea and can say that it is one of the best herbal teas around. We have also tried lemongrass on vegetable curries and on dishes that have coconut milk—it is truly a wonderful culinary gift from nature! And, there's more: its oil is used in soaps, shampoos, lotions, massage oils, body powders, colognes, toothpastes and mouthwashes.

So, crave no more for imported oil such as lavender or sandalwood—we have our lemongrass!

Email goldingrass@yahoo.com, or call 808-4987.

LOTUS POND

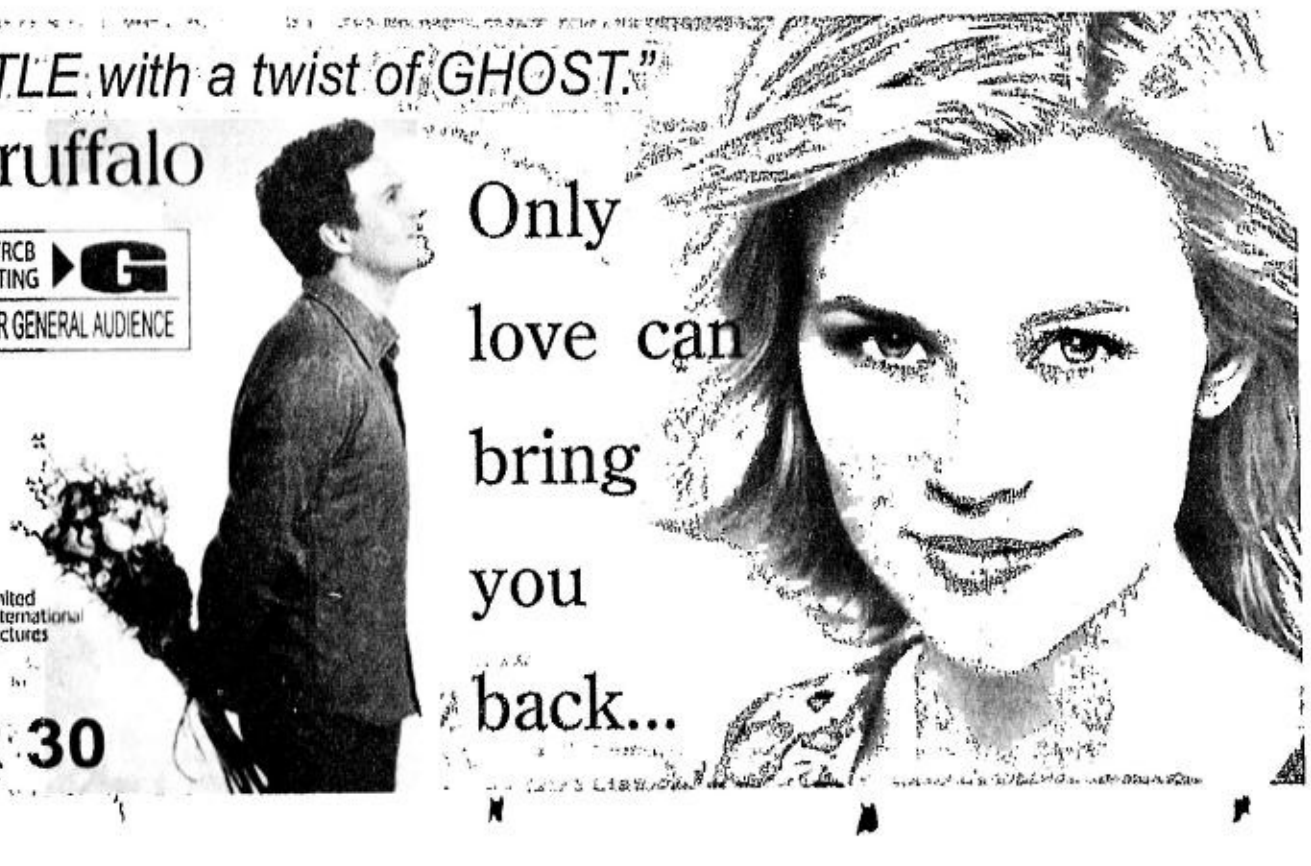
R. Valencia and S. Bismark

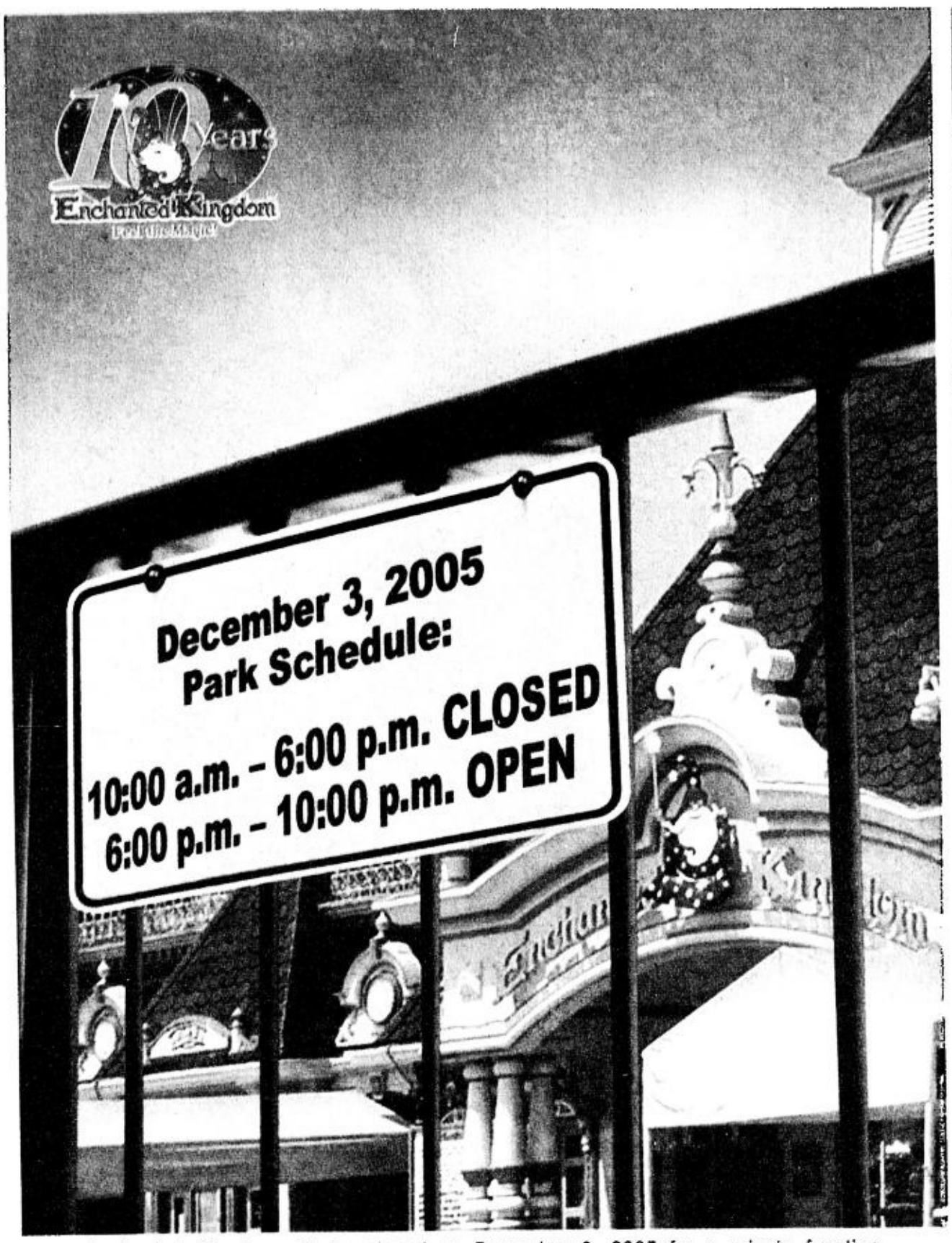
NOW SHOWING
MTRCB RATING ▶ G General Audience ALL AGES ADMITTED
"THE BEST ONE YET!" -KIRK HONEYCUTT, HOLLYWOOD REPORTER
"MOODY IS ONE OF ROWLING'S MOST COLORFUL CREATIONS, AND GLEESON MAKES HIM ALL THE MORE SO." - TODD MCCARTHY, VARIETY
"RALPH FIENNES IS AN EXCELLENT CHOICE FOR VOLDEMORT AND GIVES A TRULY SCARY NASTY PORTRAYAL." - MARIO E. BAUTISTA, MANILA BULLETIN
"EXACTLY WHAT FANS ARE LOOKING FOR, OFFERING EYE-BOGGLING SPECTACLE AND LOTS OF WELL-EXECUTED ACTION SCENES." - KYLE SMITH, NEW YORK POST
Harry Potter AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE
WARNER BROS. PICTURES

NOW SHOWING
MTRCB RATING ▶ R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP.
FROM THE PRODUCERS OF "MONSTER-IN-LAW"
uma thurman
meryl streep bryan greenberg
PRIME
A therapeutic romantic comedy.

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs old only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or parent
AN IMMORTAL LOVE. AN AGELESS SECRET. A DESTINY THAT LEADS HIM BACK IN TIME.
EVERYONE NEEDS A HERO!
JACKIE CHAN
THE MYTH
KIM HEE SEON TONY LEUNG KA FAI MALLIKA SHERAWAT
NOW SHOWING
VIVA
www.viva.com.ph www.the-myth-joe.com.hk

"This generation's SLEEPLESS IN SEATTLE with a twist of GHOST."
reese witherspoon mark ruffalo
Just Like Heaven
MTRCB RATING ▶ G FOR GENERAL AUDIENCE
DREAMWORKS PICTURES
SOUNDTRACK AVAILABLE ON SONY MUSIC SOUNDTRAX
www.JustLikeHeaven-the movie.com
united international pictures
A united international pictures release through ● Polar Entertainment Corporation
IN THEATERS NOVEMBER 30
Only love can bring you back...





Enchanted Kingdom will be closed on December 3, 2005 for a private function, but the MAGIC will continue at 6 PM. As a treat, enjoy a special rate of Php 320 for EK Day Pass.
Makati Sales Office: Ground Floor, The Biltmore Condominium, 102 Aguirre St. Legaspi Village, Makati City.
Telephone Nos. 830-21-11 to 16 and 843-60-73 to 78. Website: www.enchantedkingdom.com.ph

Promising newcomers in NVC's 'Aspects of Love'

By Nestor U. Torre

THE NEW VOICE COMPANY'S STAGING of Andrew Lloyd Webber's "alternative" musical, "Aspects of Love" (until Dec. 3) is paced by the insightful performances of Monique Wilson and Leo Rialp.

Encouragingly, the production also showcases some promising newcomers who are fine additions to the local stage scene's pool of musical theater talents. Our hope is that they will continue to develop their abilities, so they can play lead roles in forthcoming musicals.

Poised and focused

Krystal Kane, who plays Monique's daughter Jenny at age 12, is a poised and focused performer.

Best of all, she has a strong, expressive singing voice, and clearly enjoys performing. And she does so in a natural manner, with none of the irritating *porma* of many child performers in these parts.

Jenny Jamora may "only" be in the ensemble in this production, but her verve and involvement still make her stand out. We've seen her play bigger roles in past productions, and hope that even more challenging parts are in store for her in the immediate future.

In "Aspects," however, Jenny impresses not just with her talent and involvement, but also with her temperate decision to keep within the parameters of ensemble performance and not call attention too much to herself.

JAMORA. Verve and involvement.

Angela Padilla looks young, but she did justice to the major character role of Giulietta Trapani, who gets involved with the characters played by Monique and Leo in the musical's complex tale of love and passion.

Major talent

Lynn Sherman is a major talent who restricts herself to a small role in this production (Elizabeth), but is clearly meant for bigger things. We've noted her outstanding participation in past shows, and wish somebody would give her the lead roles she clearly deserves to tackle. Perhaps next year?

Other promising talents were listed in the musical's program as alternate players, but we didn't get to see them perform the night we caught the show. We trust that they too will persevere in honing their talents, so local musical theater's talent pool will be further fortified and enriched. Call New Voice at 896-6695.

Gift of knowledge

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

YOU SELDOM HEAR anything about Tawi-Tawi. You don't give it much thought—until you get there! Indeed, the name comes from the Malay word, "juai," meaning far. Early travelers would say "jaui-jaui" to mean it was *that* far from the Asian mainland.

Trip

Rina Lopez-Bautista took a trip to Tawi-Tawi as president of the Knowledge Channel, which offers students in poor areas up to 18 hours of educational programs and free TV sets.

BAUTISTA. Rewarding experience.

Some 1,550 public schools in the country have already been equipped, with satellite dishes in more than 150 schools. "But, there's so much that needs to be done," Rina said, "If the country has 40,000 *barangays* with one public school each, then we need to reach out more—to spread the gift of knowledge."

It is one huge step to officially mark the entry of the educational television (ETV) channel into the Basulta (Basilan, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi) area. The launch highlights Tawi-Tawi's arrival into the communications-technology arena.

ROA. Instructive study in time management.

SATURDAY special

Boots always finds her way back to the theater

By Rito P. Asilo

IT TOOK "BE NOT AFRAID, JOHN PAUL II," the stage play mounted by the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines as a tribute to the late great pontiff, to convince Boots Anson-Roa to revisit her theater roots.

Her last theatrical endeavor, "Anastasia," was staged 15 years ago—when Boots was still living in the US!

Dizzying schedule

A quick look at Boots' dizzying schedule is an instructive study in time management: She's shooting two movies (Star Cinema's "Sukob," Regal's "Blue Moon"), taping for a TV serial (GMA-7's "Sugo"), running Mowelfund, teaching at UP and at the Manila Times School of Journalism, spearheading countless advocacies, and taking care of her family. The starstruck cast of "Be Not Afraid," which she topbills with Tommy Abuel, wonders how she does it!

When we met Roa at Mowelfund's sprawling complex last Tuesday, she was preparing to meet 800 students, who were there to tour the center's impressive film museum—and 1,200 more were expected the following day!

Despite her rigorous workload, Boots remains unperturbed—and grateful for the blessings that continuously come her way. She may be busy, but she always finds her way back to the theater, and is delighted for the opportunity to dabble in its thespic pleasures.

Good for the soul

She shares: "Theater is good for the soul. Besides, I started doing plays when I was only six, when I had to perform all six characters in 'Little Red Riding Hood'! As a child, I would do cameos in my dad's movies."

In "Be Not Afraid," Boots plays the narrator *and* Karol Wojtyla's mother, Emilia, among other roles. Her participation in the production may have been providential. She explains, "Somebody up there must have pushed me into doing it. I am a fan of the late pope. He was understanding, empathetic and, to a certain extent, tolerant. But, he championed the family and its importance—he was never for abortion, divorce or separation!

"I had memorable brushes with him during his first visit here in 1981. Back then, my family was chosen for a special audience with him. My preparation was painstaking: Our outfits, the protocol. But when I finally met him, all I could say was, 'Yes, sir!'"

At 27, it was a shock—and a treat—for the moviegoing public to hear the actress, who's known for her prim-and-proper ways and wholesome image, spew unlikely cuss words in "Tatay na si Erap." The result? Boots copped her first Famas best actress award!

Skimpy outfit

But, it's really the legitimate stage that allows the actress to stretch her thespic wings further: As Doris in Bill Manhoff's "The Owl and the Pussycat," for example, she wore a skimpy outfit, and had her first—and only—kissing scene in a play or film! But, here's the catch: Felix, the guy her character had to kiss, was played by husband Pete!

Inspiring shows offer timely reminders

By Nestor U. Torre

AT 8 P.M. TODAY AT CROSSroads 77, Creative Futures Inc. presents "Project: Jose," a concert-play conceptualized and directed by Robert Seña, the acclaimed star of many hit musicals, both here and abroad.

The concert explores conflicting points of view about life embodied in the personas of three different Joses—Jose the Dreamer, Jose the Politician, Jose the Realist. All three are in active pursuit of one elusive lady, and their contrasting courtship styles symbolize the different ways that people try to win the heart of the country.

Realization

At the end of the day, the show shares, what really matters isn't the lady's choice, but her suitors' realization that they're more than just rivals. She isn't a prize to be won, but an aspiration that can only be realized when people change and work with, and not against, each other.

Director Seña plays Jose the Realist, while Jon Rodriguez takes on the role of Jose the Dreamer, and Raymond Lauchengco is Jose the Politician.

"Project: Jose" hopes to stir viewers to join a new generation of selfless Filipinos. Proceeds will help fund the work of Turning Point Foundation (with substance abusers) and Lydia's Helping Hand Mission (for children in Tondo).

Another inspiring show we should support is "Light A Million Mornings," at the CCP's Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo on Jan. 6 and 7. The benefit concert showcases the acclaimed Loboc Children's Choir and Pundaquit Virtuosi. Special guests are celebrated violinist Alfonso "Coke" Bolipata, and Julian Quirit and his violinist daughter, Eliza.

Stewardship

The show will benefit 650 children in the Tuloy sa Don Bosco Streetchildren Village, under the stewardship of Fr. Rocky Evangelista, SDB.

The concert will be directed by Leo Rialp, with Danny Favis as musical director.

We should patronize these and other inspirational shows, because the complex, confounding times have tended to blur society's moral edge, and we all need felt musical experiences that remind us that we should all strive to give the very best of ourselves to others.

SEÑA. Directs and performs in "Project: Jose" tonight.

Mistaken notions about TV news reporting

By Behn Cervantes

I WONDER WHY MANY OF TV entertainers, announcers or reporters mistake elan and comedy for inanity. For lack of anything else to do, they scream, horse around or mug, and think they are amusing!

This is especially true for an early-morning traffic reporter on television. When I chance upon her performing her antics, I quickly use my remote control to change channels.

Because of the stiff competition existing between popular channels, announcers ape the more popular resident announcers. Is it for the same appeal? They end up clones of the originals, instead.

Better scripts

It is time that channel executives caution their talents to refrain from this unnecessary clowning around, employ better scripts that make use of their talent, and stop turning news into entertainment.

If you want to start your morning right, you don't want the gory details at the crime scene the night before, with reporters clowning around in unrestrained self-indulgence.

This desire to start on the right foot is especially true on Mondays. Instead of allowing us to calmly welcome the week, loquacious and obstreperous announcers deafen us with intrusive chatter, which they mistake for unbounded energy.

I end up switching to CNN or BBC for mature behavior, restraint and straight news reporting. These stations may have an American or British slant, but at least, there is evidence of logic and solid research.

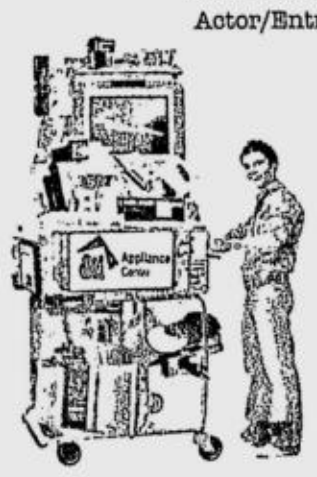
Personal opinions

Local morning shows are rife with personal opinions that have neither been researched nor thought out. The hosts try to out-talk one another! Unfortunately, they only support each other's nonsense. I wonder why network bosses haven't noted this abuse of a powerful medium. They should be reminded that they have a responsibility to the audience: This is not about fun and games!

BANKING HAS NEVER BEEN THIS REWARDING!

"I bought a new Car through the Banco de Oro Auto Loan. I enjoy easy payment terms, low interest and great rewards. **Iba ang REWARDS dito!"**

Marvin Agustin
Actor/Entrepreneur



Super Charged Auto Loan

BDO Rewards

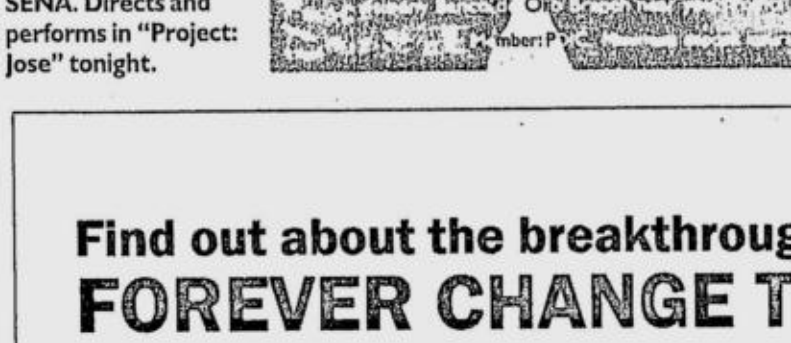
We [illegible] ways

Call Center at 631-8000, Domestic Toll Free # 1-800-10-631-8000 or [illegible] is subject to the terms and conditions of the BDO Rewards program.

each depositor: P250,000.00 For DTI-NCR Permit # 2878, Series of 2005.

Find out about the breakthrough in sleep technology that will
FOREVER CHANGE THE WAY YOU SLEEP.

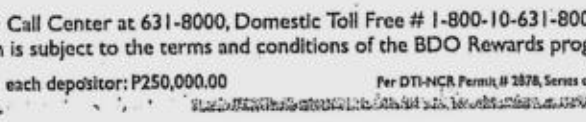
TEMPUR®
PRESSURE RELIEVING
MATTRESSES AND PILLOWS



Why Tempur?

- Tempur is pressure relieving and moulds to the contours of the body.
- It relieves back pain and neck problems by providing support where it's needed.
- It reduces tossing and turning, leading to a more comfortable and restful sleep.
- Tempur is recommended by more than 30,000 medical doctors, chiropractors, physiotherapists,and osteopaths worldwide.

Mattress comparison



An ordinary mattress and pillow often cause pressure and unnatural sleeping positions resulting in decreased circulation, numbness, pain, discomfort and poor quality of sleep.

The TEMPUR Mattress and Pillow allow the spine and joints to rest in their natural positions, causing the least possible stress on muscles and nerves.

Take advantage of the 0%* Interest promo on Tempur mattresses Open to BPI cardholders until Dec. 31, 2005

*For 3 & 6 months payment terms Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A3-047 Series of 2005

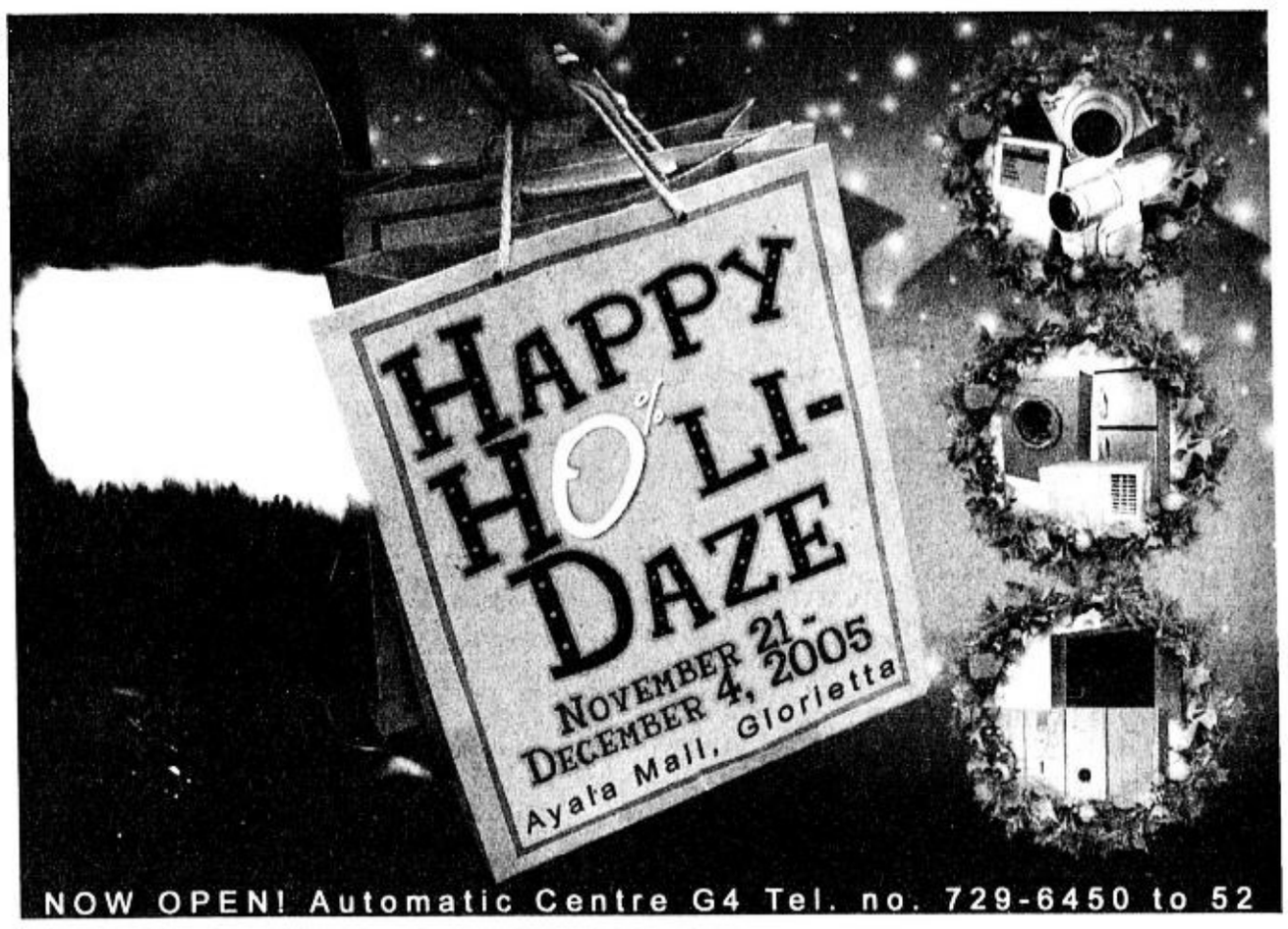
SPACE THE ONLY MATTRESS AND PILLOW RECOGNIZED BY NASA AND CERTIFIED BY THE SPACE FOUNDATION

Visit the showroom at Shangri-la Plaza Mall EDSA, Level 5, Mandaluyong City Tel: (02) 631-1391

Tempur pillows are also available at: Rustan's Makati and Rustan's Alabang, Sheridan and Urban Spa at Shangri-La Plaza Mall, and Komodo at Mandaluyong

Exclusively distributed by: FOCUS GLOBAL INC.

Automatic Centre



'Happy Holidaze'

THE CHILLY MORNING BREEZE signals the onset of the holiday season. It is also the perfect time for family gatherings and parties with friends. And with all the parties you will host for a big number of guests, you might need to upgrade to a sturdier and newer appliance to accommodate your needs.

Automatic Centre knows exactly what you need when they came up with "Happy Holidaze," an appliance exhibit currently ongoing at the Ayala mall, Glorietta 3, Ayala Center.

"It is an opportunity for our customers to choose from a wide range of choices," said Geoffrey Lim, general manager of Automatic Centre. "The exhibit also gives our valued partners the opportunity to showcase their products."

Customers have a wide range of choices with participating brands like Audiovox, Canon, Carrier, Condura, Electrolux, Hitachi, iPod, JVC, LG, Kelvinator, Kolin, Syntax, NextBase, Panasonic, Philips, Pioneer, Sharp, Sony, Toshiba, Whirlpool, and White Westinghouse.

"Happy Holidaze" features home appliances that will be of much use during the holiday season such as conventional and flat screen TVs, kitchen appliances. Also on show are the so-called white lines products like refrigerators and air conditioners.

Small appliances are also perfect for gifts. These are also available in the exhibit.

Customers have a wide range of choices with participating brands like Audiovox, Canon, Carrier, Condura, Electrolux, Hitachi, iPod, JVC, LG, Kelvinator, Kolin, Syntax, NextBase, Panasonic, Philips, Pioneer, Sharp, Sony, Toshiba, Whirlpool, and White Westinghouse.

And to make your purchases a lot easier, "Happy Holidaze" is made possible in partnership with Citibank. It offers 0% inter-

HAPPY/ A4-3

TOSHIBA

Truly Digital
Truly Intelligent

meta brain CREATES REAL BEAUTY AS YOU SEE IT.

See it REAL, CLEAN, CLEAR, SMOOTH and ORIGINAL with Toshiba's new Meta Brain TV technology.
An intelligent picture enhancement feature beyond anything you've ever imagined.

Visit our exhibits at
Automatic Centre
Nov.21 to Dec.12 Ayala Center, Cebu City
Nov.21 to Dec.4 Glorietta 3, Makati City
Nov.25 to Dec.11 Gateway Cubao, Q.C.
AV Surfer
Nov.18 to Dec.11
Robinson's Metro East, Cainta Rizal
Robinson's Appliances
Nov.23 to Jan.15, 2006
San Fernando, Pampanga City

• LCD TV Full Series 20-42"

Authorized Dealers:
Automatic CENTRE Tel. 750-3319
ABENSON Tels. 812-1584/812-2882
Robinsons Appliances Tels. 637-8353 / 635-0751
HOME & OFFICE CENTER Tel. 867-2352 to 53
WESTERN Tels. 634-6532/634-1733
avant ABENSON Tels. 758-2315 to 20
AVSurfer Tels. 807-2721 898-1635
SIGHTS & SOUNDS Tel. 752-7115 to 16 Tel. 634-1789 to 90
FAIR N' SQUARE EMPORIUM Tels. 244-6663/242-1546
J & R APPLIANCE CENTER Tels. 242-1576 / 242-1585
IMAGE VIDEO TRADING CORP. Tel. 522-3493 / 523-5842
AMBASSADOR APPLIANCE, INC. Tel. 633-9592 / 633-5224
SPECTRA AUDIO VIDEO CENTER Tel. 818-5493
PACIFIC ELCTRONCS Tel. 733-1734 / 536-4035
WORLDWIDE AUDIO VIDEO HOME APPLIANCES Tels. 241-3446 to 48 243-1838 to 39
MAX VISION Tels. 723-3322 / 723-3366

Regional Outlets:
CEBU CIRCUIT CITY Tel. (032) 231-3598
SAVER'S MART Pampanga Tel. (045) 323-6888 / 7888
AUTOMATIC CENTER Cebu Tel. (032) 232-1001 / 232-1002
SOUNDROOM SM City Cebu Tel. (032) 231-0288
SOUNDROOM Ayala Center Cebu Tel. (032) 231-9288

Authorized Service Centers:
ACT ELECTRONIC CENTER 915 Banawe St., Q.C. Tel. 361-6747 / 363-1650
TRONIX MASTER Tel. 414-9239/743-9094
UPSONIC Electronics Services Cebu City Tel. (032) 413-9817

Philippine Distributor: GOLD WAY DIGITAL EQUIPMENT, INC. Tels: 873-6961 to 64 • Fax: 873-6965 • e-mail: toshiba@pldtdsl.net

Automatic CENTRE 'Happy Holidaze'

From page A4-2

Toshiba has a special promotion exclusively for "Happy Holidaze" called Special Bundle Promotion. A purchase of 37" LCD TV will get a free 20" LCD TV, free DVD Home Theater on selected products, plus 0% (12 months) interest on installment plan for credit card holders.

est on all items from 3 months up to 24 months.

The purchases also go with freebies from participating brands.

Whirpool Home Appliances is one of the regular exhibitors in Automatic Centre's exhibits. It has on its display at the Ayala mall top mount refrigerators, washing machines; microwave ovens, freezers, and cooking ranges.

"But what we are particularly highlighting are two exciting new products: the Max 18 microwave oven and the ER8AHKXP(L) refrigerator," said Joy C. Catiis, assistant marketing manager of Whirlpool.

The Max 18 boasts of a breakthrough patented Whirlpool 3D microwave technology which provides even heat distribution and ultimate performance. It also possesses exceptional space-saving dimensions which allows it to fit easily into small or corner spaces but still retains the same spacious interior as other regular microwave ovens.

Meanwhile the ER8AHKXP(L) is an 18 cu.ft. US Top Mount refrigerator. Its technologically advanced SpaceSmart™ Cooling System allows cold air to be channeled evenly throughout the refrigerator keeping the food cold without taking up valuable storage space. What's more, its Satina™ stainless look finish provides a smooth and glossy appearance that is low-maintenance and easy to clean.

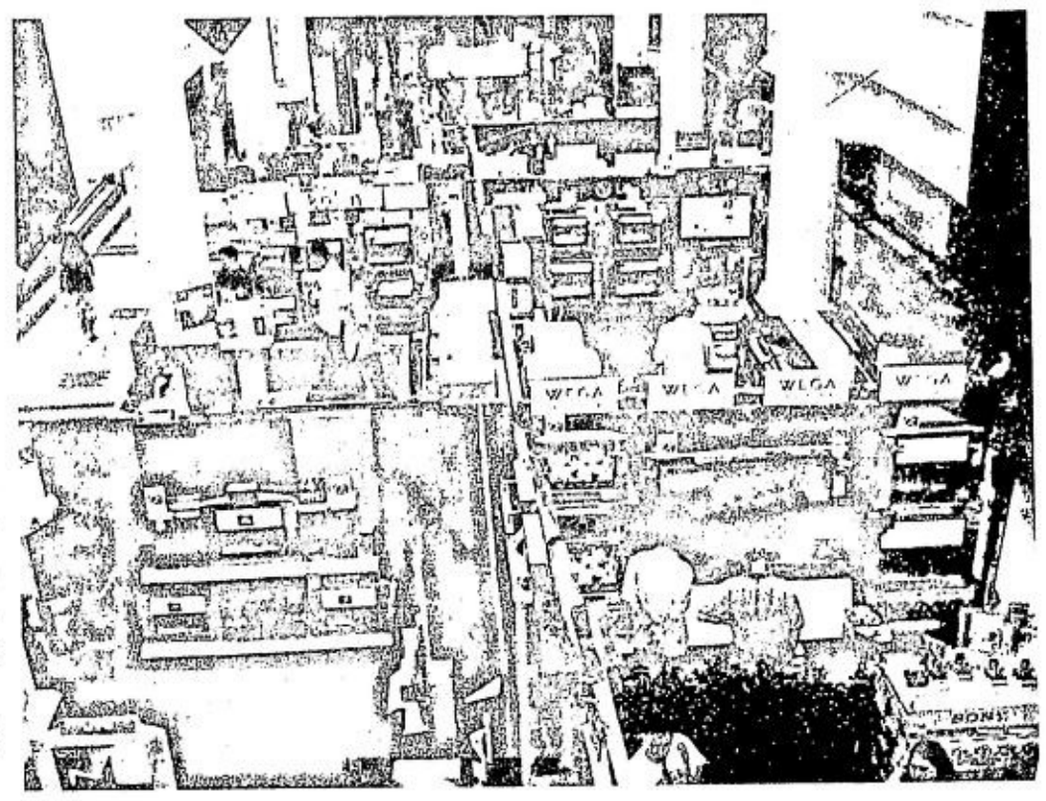
Aside from its ongoing 0%-interest promotion and premium items, Whirpool also has new models of microwave ovens called the Novel Series, and washing machines with a 6kg capacity and are fully automatic washers equipped with special features such as the Aqua Shower Waterfall Technology and stainless steel wash tub which no other brand in the same category has.

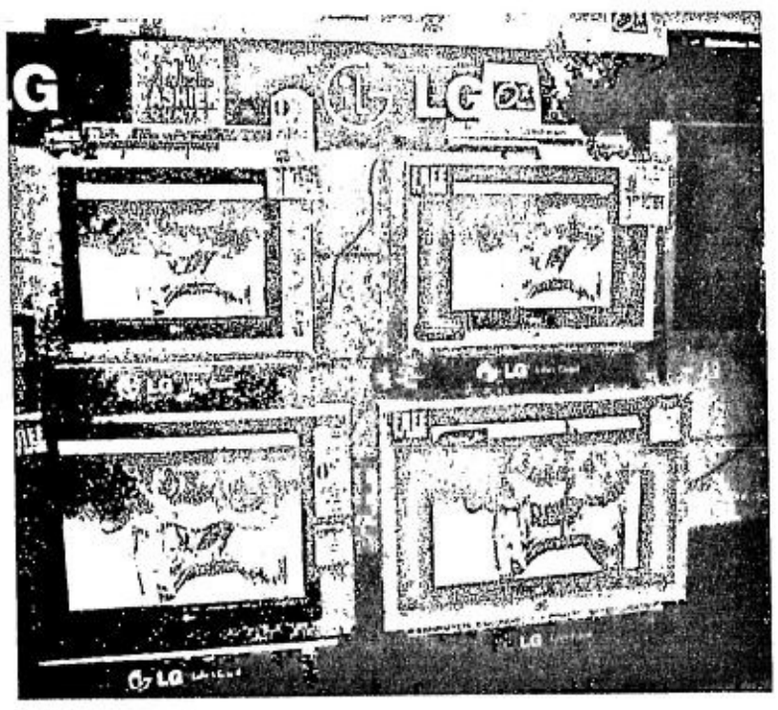
Toshiba gives consumers varied choices of Flat Panel TV, the latest in LCD TV DLP, Projection TV, and the new product line for the DVD players which boast special features like: DVD-Audio/Video playback, 11 in 2 multicard reader, and HDMI Terminal. Enjoy watching your favorite movies with the new Stasia LCD TV of Toshiba engineered by it's latest breakthrough TV technology--"Meta Brain", that allows enhancement of images to deliver life-like picture.

Toshiba has a special promotion exclusively for "Happy Holidaze" called the Special Bundle Promotion. A purchase of 37" LCD TV will get a free 20" LCD TV, free DVD Home Theater on selected products, plus 0% (12 months) interest on installment plan for credit card holders.

For this holiday season Toshiba is offering

HAPPY/ A4-4

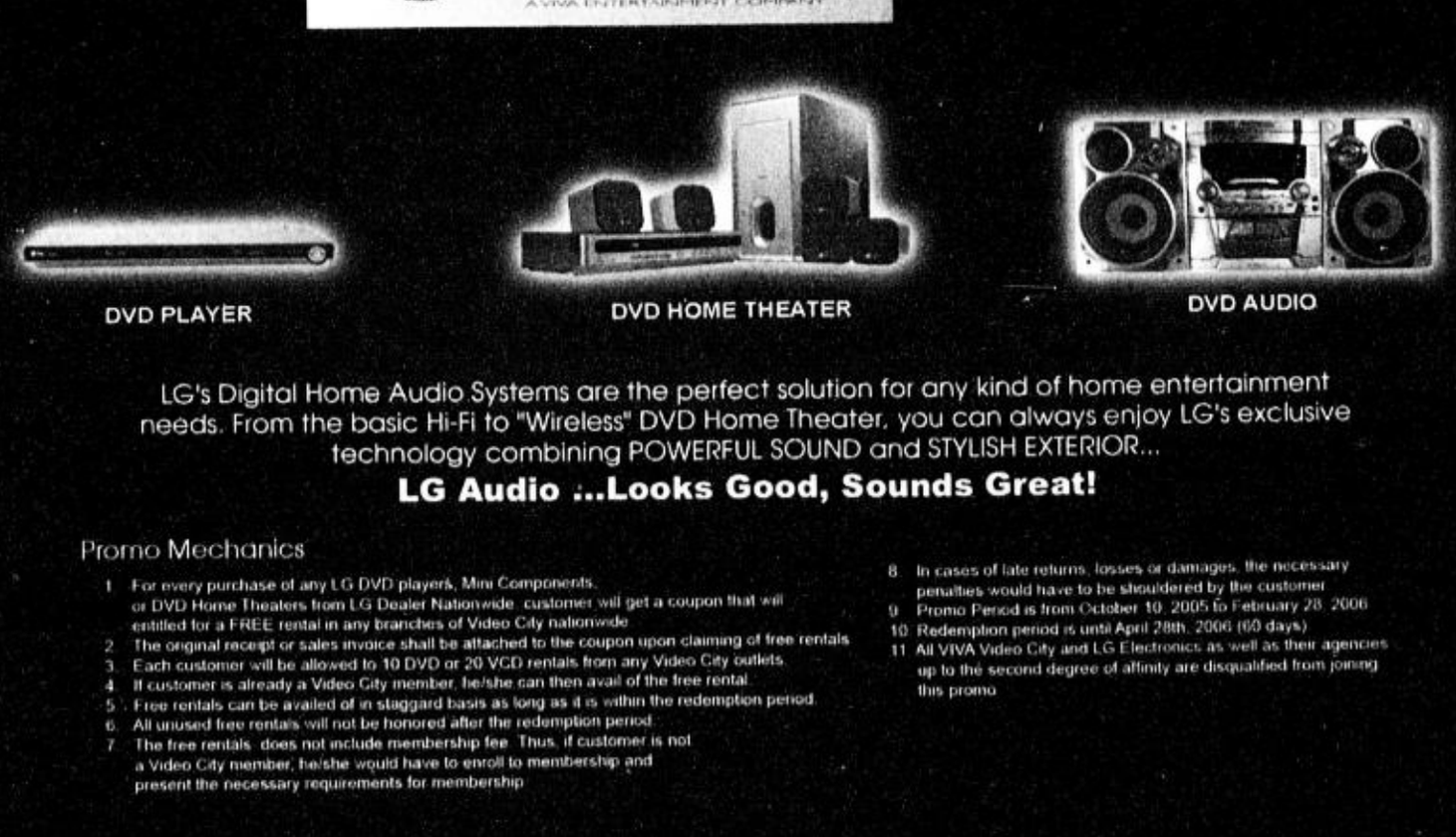




Automatic CENTRE citibank

Life's Good AT THE CITY

ENJOY UP TO 20 MOVIES FOR RENT AT ANY VideoCity OUTLET. FREE



LG's Digital Home Audio Systems are the perfect solution for any kind of home entertainment needs. From the basic Hi-Fi to "Wireless" DVD Home Theater, you can always enjoy LG's exclusive technology combining POWERFUL SOUND and STYLISH EXTERIOR...

LG Audio ...Looks Good, Sounds Great!

Promo Mechanics

1. For every purchase of any LG DVD players, Mini Components, or DVD Home Theaters from LG Dealer Nationwide, customer will get a coupon that will entitled for a FREE rental in any branches of Video City nationwide
2. The original receipt or sales invoice shall be attached to the coupon upon claiming of free rentals
3. Each customer will be allowed to 10 DVD or 20 VCD rentals from any Video City outlets
4. If customer is already a Video City member, he/she can then avail of the free rental
5. Free rentals can be availed of in staggard basis as long as it is within the redemption period
6. All unused free rentals will not be honored after the redemption period
7. The free rentals does not include membership fee. Thus, if customer is not a Video City member, he/she would have to enroll to membership and present the necessary requirements for membership
8. In cases of late returns, losses or damages, the necessary penalties would have to be shouldered by the customer
9. Promo Period is from October 10, 2005 to February 28, 2006
10. Redemption period is until April 28th, 2006 (60 days)
11. All VIVA Video City and LG Electronics as well as their agencies up to the second degree of affinity are disqualified from joining this promo

Promo runs from October 10, 2005 to February 28, 2006

PER DTI-NCR Permit No.5805 Series of 2005

LG

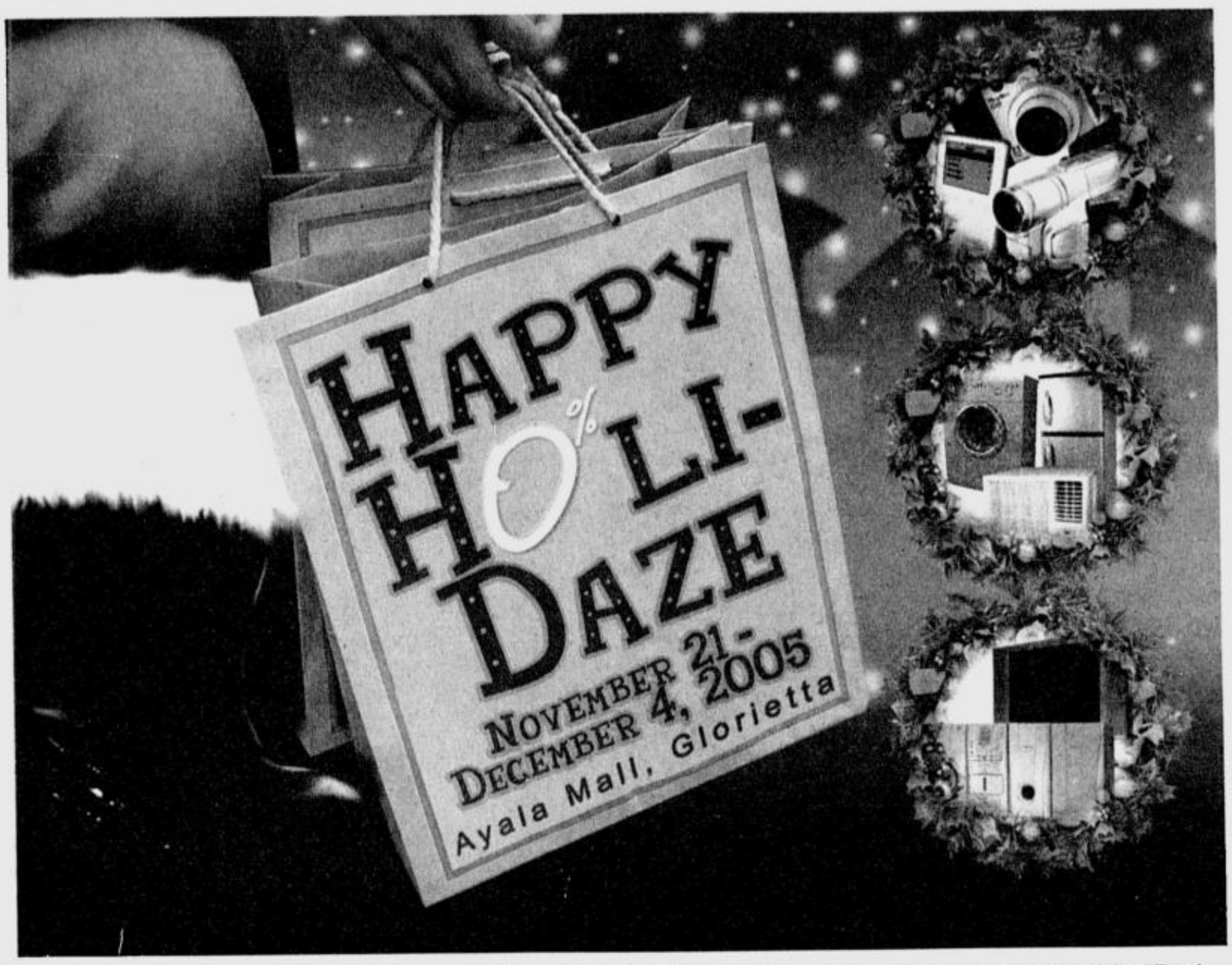
Life's Good

LG Electronics Philippines 15 F Ilegaspi St., Maybunga Pasig City Tel No: 641-4181 to 85 Fax: 640-0460

CIC Tel No: 640-2525 text: 0917-8242525 / 0920-9002525

www.lge.com.ph

Automatic CENTRE citibank



Audiovox • Canon • Carrier • Condura • Creative • Electrolux • Hitachi • iPod • JVC • LG • Kelvinator • Kolin/Syntax • Nextbase • Panasonic • Philips • Pioneer • Sharp • Sony • Toshiba • Whirlpool • White Westinghouse

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A1-1002, Series of 2005

Automatic CENTRE 'Happy Holidaze'

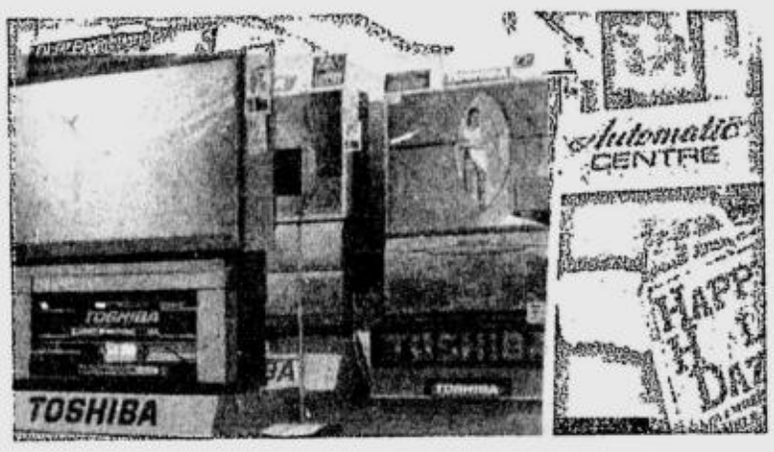
From page A4-3

special promotions and give-aways, as a gesture of appreciation for its patrons, by giving an extended one-year warranty to all customers who will purchase Toshiba LCD TV until Dec. 31.

Automatic Centre also has its own special promotions this Christmas season.

In "Santa's Rega-Low" Christmas promo, three lucky winners will be drawn for a round-trip ticket for two to Macau with hotel accommodation for 3 days and 2 nights. For every P1,000 purchase, customers get a raffle ticket.

Another one is the Santa's Free Gift which is already on its third year. No purchase required. Just visit any Automatic Centre store and fill out a small flyer, just write the item that you wish for worth not more than P10,000. There will be 10 winners in five draws until Dec. 31, 2005. The last draw is on Jan. 7, 2006.



In "Santa's Rega-Low" Christmas promo, three lucky winners will be drawn for a round-trip ticket for two to Macau with hotel accommodation for 3 days and 2 nights. For every P1,000 purchase, customers get a raffle ticket

www.whirlpool.com.ph

CREATING WAVES IN THE KITCHEN

AT318
22 liter Electronic Control
With crisp, grill, & convection functions

Brightly radiating as the sun, the Whirlpool Microwave Oven has taken versatility to a whole new level as it can fry, bake, defrost, grill, reheat, all at the touch of a button. Since cooking should not be a gruelling task, Whirlpool's excellent technology and practical design bring ease and convenience in every dish you may wish to whip up.

Now, you can spend more time enjoying life's simple pleasures.

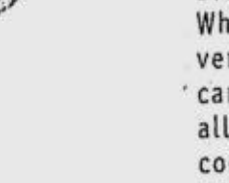
Get Citibank 0% on the hottest deals without having to leave your home

0% PayLite

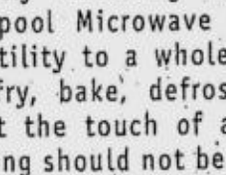
Dual Emission System
Ensures perfectly even cooking without any cold spots.

Crisp Function
Allows food to be cooked with a crispy brown finish.

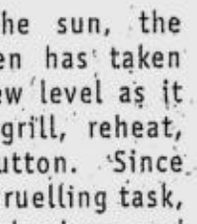
Quartz Grill Function
Its flat ceiling provides a larger cavity area and ultra short grilling time.



AVM585
28 liter Electronic Control
With grill function
Available in white, black, & stainless colors



AVM571
28 liter
Easytronic Control
Available in white & black colors



NEW Max 18
18 liter
Electronic Control
With grill & crisp functions

7-DAY SERVICE · HOTLINE 7227370 · TEXT SERVICE 0918-WHIRLPL · QUICK RESPONSE MOBILE SERVICE

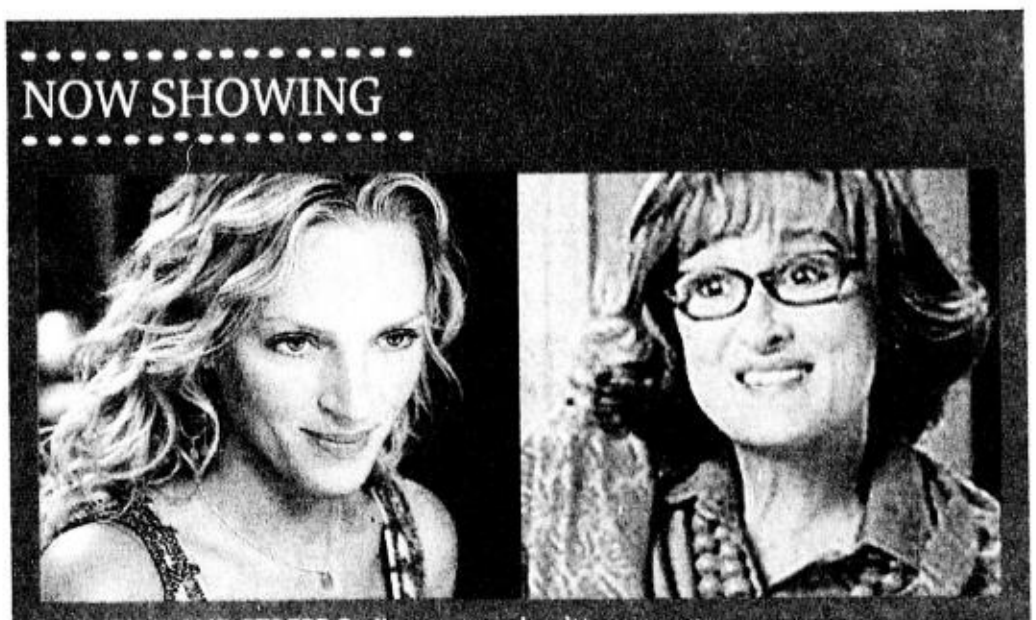
WHIRLPOOL QUALITY EXPRESS SERVICE

Whirlpool

SENSING THE DIFFERENCE

SATURDAY *special*

NOW SHOWING



THURMAN AND STREEP. Stellar presence in witty rom-com.

Love and other demons

By Rito P. Asilo

"Prime"

D: Ben Younger
S: Uma Thurman, Meryl Streep, Bryan Greenberg

IN BEN YOUNGER'S WITTY, BITTERSWEET retooling of "Monster-in-Law," Uma Thurman plays Rafi Gardet, a 37-year-old divorcee who seeks the help of psychoanalyst, Lisa Metzger (Meryl Streep), to come to grips with the dissolution of her marriage. Rafi finds solace and support from Lisa, who encourages her to "explore" her relationship with David (Bryan Greenberg), a 23-year-old aspiring artist she just met.

Then, after she commences an exhilarating May-September affair with her idealistic lover, conflict arises when the two women realize that the sweet, insatiable guy who has revitalized Rafi's sexual desires turns out to be Lisa's only son!

Lisa has to face up to the professional and personal implications of the situation, and cross unwieldy ethical boundaries when confronted by her moral—and religious—biases! Soon, even the seasoned shrink realizes the difficulty of practicing what she preaches—and arranges a visit to *her* own therapist!

Younger's rom-com may follow some of the genre's formulaic patterns, but the director doesn't resort to emotional blackmail by eschewing the story's sappy possibilities, and allowing his charismatic actors' instinctive performances to elevate the story beyond the familiar storyline.

Aided by Streep and Thurman's stellar presence and Greenberg's heartthrob-making turn, the film's leads inhabit their roles with instinct and aplomb, and lend gravitas to otherwise predictable characters. The movie will make you alternately laugh and cry—which isn't a bad thing, because it also teaches you that love, even when you try hard to make it work, isn't always enough. As one character philosophizes: "Sometimes, you love, you learn, and you move on—and that's okay!"

"The Exorcism of Emily Rose"

D: Scott Derrickson
S: Laura Linney, Tom Wilkinson, Jennifer Carpenter

Scott Derrickson's engaging and well-acted horror-drama spins an intriguing tale about faith and demonic possession. But, the movie is more than just an urban legend. In fact, "The Exorcism of Emily Rose" *is* based on the true-to-life story of Anneliese Michel, a young German whose dreams were cut short by her unfortunate fate in the '70s. Some scenes will send chills up your spine, but you've seen them before.

In the film, Emily Rose (Jennifer Carperter) dies under the care of Fr. Moore (Tom Wilkinson), who performs the exorcism ritual that leads to her death. The parish priest is then hauled off to court by prosecutor Ethan Thomas (Campbell Scott), who's devoutly religious, and is defended by lawyer Erin Bruner (Laura Linney), an agnostic.

But, how do you strike a balance between law and religion, or between salvation and damnation? Fr. Moore insists, "Demons exist—whether you believe in them or not!" Indeed, it's hard for worldly courts to pass judgment on matters involving God and the devil.

"The Myth"

D: Stanley Tong
S: Jackie Chan, Mallika Sherawat, Tony Leung Ka Fai

William (Tony Leung) convinces archaeologist Jack (Jackie Chan) to undertake an expedition to search of medicine that can give eternal life. In a parallel story, during the reign of China's first emperor, Qin Shi Huang

LOVE/ A5-3

Shanghai Bistro's Second Anniversary Treat...

SUCKLING PIG SET MENUS

Choose from these two set menus offering authentic Shanghai and Hong Kong cuisine and suckling pig cooked two delicious ways.

Set A

Roasted Suckling Pig
Suckling Pig (2nd way)
Seafood Bean Curd Soup
Stir-fried Duck Breast with Pineapple
Crispy Cuttlefish Roll
Steamed Live Seafood with Soy Sauce
Sio Lung Pao
Yang Chow Fried Rice
Chilled Mango Sago

P4500+/table
GOOD FOR 10 PEOPLE

Set B

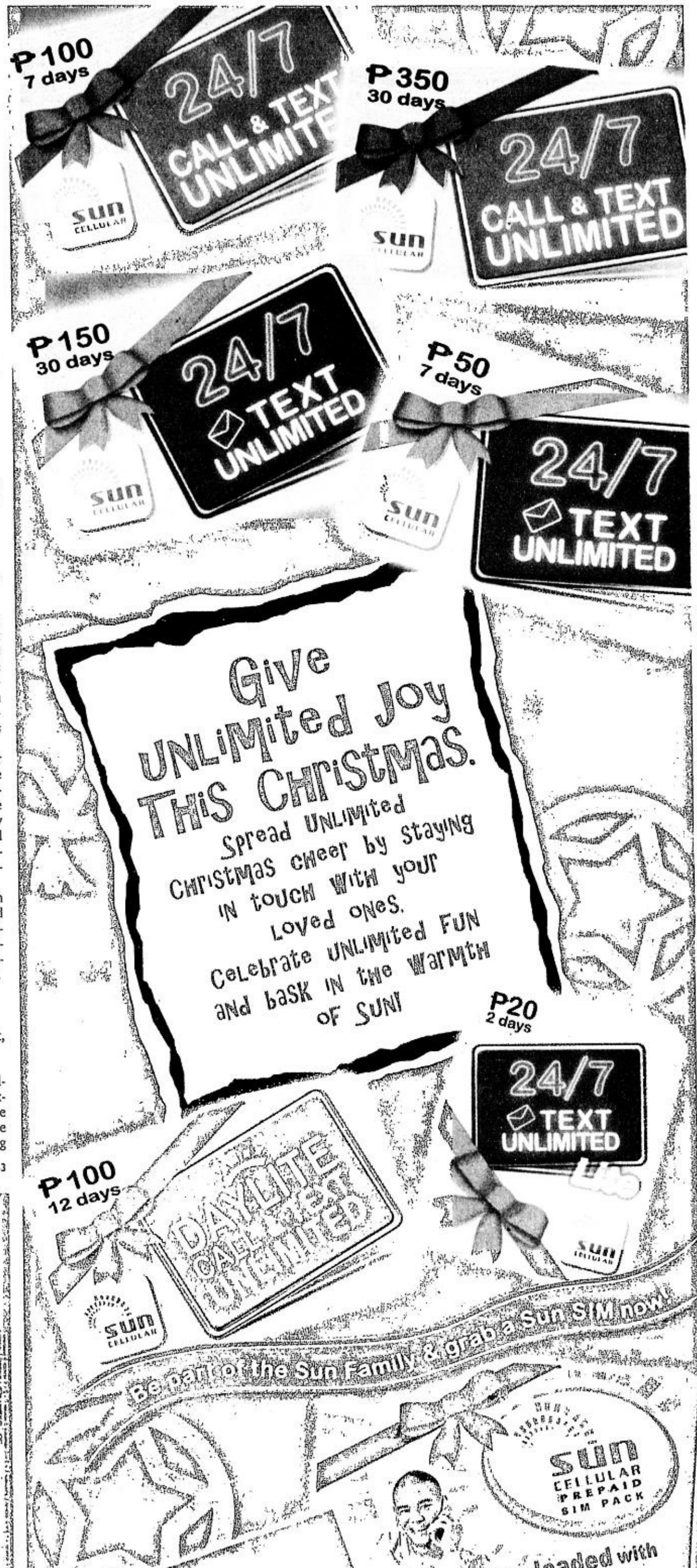
Roasted Suckling Pig
Suckling Pig (2nd way)
Double-boiled Chicken Soup with Black Mushroom
Steamed Prawn with Shao Shing Wine
Pan-fried Beef Tenderloin in Satay Sauce
Steamed Live Seafood with Soy Sauce
Stewed Black Mushroom with Bamboo Pith
Yang Chow Fried Rice
Chilled Mango Sago

P5500+/table
GOOD FOR 10 PEOPLE

- This anniversary promo is good until December 18, 2005
- Available at Eastwood City branch only
- For dine-in only and may not be used for functions or special events or in combination with any other promotion and discount offers

SHANGHAI BISTRO 上海樓
EASTWOOD CITY

OPEN MON. TO SUN., 11:30 AM TO 2:30 PM; 6:30 PM TO 12 MN
Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City,
E. Rodriguez Jr. Avenue (C-5), Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 687-1077 • 687-7103



ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

CINEMA ACCESS
635-5555
FOR ALL BRANCHES

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA 632-9116

1 HARRY POTTER 4• THX
12:00 3:10 6:20 9.30

2 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
12:30 3.40 6:50 10:00

3 PRIME
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

4 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
11:30 2:40 6:50 9:00

5 THE MYTH
12.00 2:30 5.00 7:30 10:00

6 THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

7 MY LITTLE BRIDE
12:20 2:40 5:00 7:20 9:40

8 APRIL SNOW
12:50 3:10 5:30 7:50 10:00

9 FLIGHTPLAN
12:30 2.50 5:10 7:30 9:50

10 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
1:25 4:10 6:55 9:40

ERMITA 538-7809 to 12

1 HARRY POTTER and the GOBLET of FIRE 12:00 3:20 6:40 10:00

2 MY LITTLE BRIDE
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 9:50

3 APRIL SNOW
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

4 FLIGHTPLAN
12:00 2:00 4.00 6:00 8:00

5 THE MYTH
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

6 THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

7 PRIME
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

METRO EAST 662-8193 • 662-8199

1 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
1:30 4:00 6.30 9:00

2 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
12:10 3:20 6:30 9:40

3 THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
1:00 3:40 6:20 9:00

4 FLIGHTPLAN
12:40 2:45 4:50 6:55 9:00

5 THE MYTH
1:00 3.40 6:20 9:00

6 PRIME
1:20 3:55 6:30 9.05

7 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
12:45 3:55 7:05

8 MY LITTLE BRIDE
1:20 3:55 6:30 9.05

NOVALICHES 935-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
2 THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
3 THE MYTH
4 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
5 APRIL SNOW
6 MY LITTLE BRIDE

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2576 PIONEER 687-5378

1 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
2 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE
1 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
2 THE MYTH
3 PRIME
4 THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE

SNEAK PREVIEWS
robinsons movieworld
GALLERIA • ERMITA • METRO EAST • IMUS
NOVALICHES • STA. ROSA • DASMARIÑAS • ANGELES
STARMILLS, PAMPANGA • BACOLOD • ILOILO
NOVEMBER 28
For SCREENING SCHEDULES, pls. call our CINEMA ACCESS 635-5555 or visit us: www.robinsonsmovieworld.com
MTRCB Rating: G

STA. ROSA (049) 837-0907 LIPA (043) 757-3654 (043) 312-5870

1 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
2 THE ADV. of SHARKBOY & LAVAGIRL
3 DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS 2
4 FOUR BROTHERS
5 THE MYTH
1 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
2 THE ADV. of SHARKBOY & LAVAGIRL
3 DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS 2
4 THE 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN

DASMARIÑAS (046) 852-2125 (046) 416-4332 ANGELES (045) 892-2348

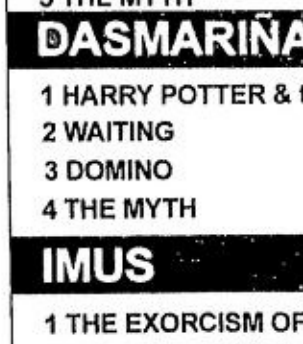
1 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
2 WAITING
3 DOMINO
4 THE MYTH
1 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
2 THE 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
3 ILUSYON
4 THE ADV. OF SHARKBOY & LAVAGIRL

IMUS (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8168 STARMILLS (045) 875-1827 (045) 961-5270

1 THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
2 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
3 DOMINO
4 THE MYTH
5 MY LITTLE BRIDE
1 AB-NORMAL; BEAUTY
2 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
3 ILUSYON
4 A HISTORY OF VIOLENCE
5 DOMINO
6 THE MYTH

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453 (034) 441-0459 ILOILO (033) 336-8070

1 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
2 WAITING
3 DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS 2
4 THE CORPSE BRIDE
5 MY SASSY GIRL
6 ILUSYON
1 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
2 THE DESCENT
3 AB-NORMAL BEAUTY
4 THE CORPSE BRIDE



The Perfect Gift All Year Round
A Pre Paid Movie Pass to the Hottest Seats in town.
Get Special discounts for volume purchases!
For marketing and events/reservations please call Marketing Services Department at 687-7945 to 47 locals 14 and 15

AYALA CENTER GLORIETTA • ALABANG TOWN CENTER • AYALA CENTER CEBU • AYALA MALLS Lovemall!

Shop & Win at Glorietta 1
July 1 - December 15, 2005
Win Nokia, Sony Ericsson Cellphones with Prepaid Kits, Gameboy Advance, iPod Shuffle, DVD Players and Electronic Gift Certificates on the monthly draws. On the Grand Raffle Draw, get a chance to win **P10,000 and P50,000 CASH Tax Free!**
See leaflets for details.
For DTI-NCR Permit No. A1-483, Series of 2005

At the Activity Center

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	AYALA CENTER CEBU
JVC Interscholastic Badminton Championship November 21 to 23, 2005	AV Surfer October 31 to November 15 Christmas Serenade w/ Afinity Nov. 2 , 9, 16, 23 & 30	Metro Product Launching November 26, 2005

AYALA GREENBELT
WWF Savour Nature Festive Buffet
November 23, 2005, GB 3 Park

GREENBELT 1 Onstage
REPERTORY PHILIPPINES presents
MAN OF LA MANCHA - The Musical
at REP's GLOBE THEATER
November 11 to December 18, 2005
For inquiries, please call 887-0710

Ayala MUSEUM
Registration for Art Workshops now on-going at Ayala Museum
For inquiries, please call 757-7117 to 21 loc 29.
Online registration at www.ayalamuseum.org

AYALA CINEMAS

Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.
Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification call 729 7777

G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE	2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE	3 PRIME	4 THE MYTH
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE	2 PRIME	3 THX HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE 12:45, 4:00, 7:15, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 FLIGHTPLAN	5 APRIL SNOW	6 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE	7 WAITING
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 THE MYTH 12:40, 3:10, 5:40, 8:10		2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE 11:20, 2:30, 5:40, 8:50	
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE 1:40, 4:55, 8:10, 11:25 GUARANTEED SEATS		2 THX HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE 1:05, 4:20, 10:50 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	3 PRIME 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 THE MYTH 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE		2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE	
	3 THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE	4 PRIME	5 THE MYTH	
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE	2 THE MYTH	3 FOUR BROTHERS	4 THE DESCENT

Customer Service text hotline: 0917 6095900
Customer Service text hotline: Glorietta - 752 7272; from 10am to 8pm; Greenbelt - 757 4853; from 11am to 12mn
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; from 10am to 8pm
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc 324

All-Digital Cinemas
Free Seating Cinemas: P80.00

MARKET! MARKET! The fun is in the finds
Developed and managed by Ayala Land, Inc.

1	HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2	THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
3	PRIME
4	HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
5	THE MYTH

Movies are subject to change without prior notice.
Customer Service Hotline: 886-7515

EVENTS! EVENTS!

MARKET! MARKET! The fun is in the finds

Holiday Fireworks Show
November 20, 27
December 4, 11, 18 and 25,
7 pm at the Playzone
Market! Market! Simbang Gabi
at the 5th level lobby
Dec. 15 - 23, 6:30 pm

Julia Clarete tops ABC-5's talent search

By Nestor U. Torre

CLARETE. Crack at international stardom.

ABC-5'S TALENT SEARCH, "Hollywood Dreams," finally peaked last week with a one-on-one standoff between Raymond Bagatsing and Julia Clarete. To decide between the two deserving finalists, the show solicited the help of seven show biz practitioners in Los Angeles.

Cliffhanger

Raymond and Julia were flown to the States for their auditions with the veteran producers, directors and talent managers. They were also given a taste of the high life in entertainment by way of limousine service and a penthouse suite in a posh hotel.

And, the Los Angeles jurors' verdict? Initially, Raymond got most of the votes, but Julia soon started to catch up. At the homestretch, they were tied, 3-3. —You can't get a more exciting cliffhanger than that!

Then, the final juror decided to cast his vote—for Julia! Not because Raymond wasn't talented, experienced and driven, but because Julia was younger, and thus could attract more job offers in the youth-focused entertainment trade.

So, Julia Clarete gets her crack at "international" stardom. Her upset, down-to-the-wire victory over Raymond proves once more that nothing is certain in show business, and "luck" does play an important part in the process of determining who makes it—and who doesn't.

Tough grind

Still, Julia's success in US entertainment remains an iffy proposition. Sure, the majority of the Los-Angeles-based jurors voted for her and promised to help her get her foot in the door, but it's still going to be a tough grind.

Ask any number of Filipino talents who have tried to make it in bigtime US entertainment—and failed. There are all sorts of reasons why this happens, but two major factors are competition and ethnicity.

The competition for jobs in Los Angeles is intense. The entertainment capital lures talents from all over the world like a magnet, so there are literally thousands of talents competing for the few jobs available.

The people who fail to land those performing jobs bide their time by working as waiters, bartenders, babysitters, dogsitters—anything to pay the rent before Dame Fortune finally deigns to smile on them (if she ever does).

Ethnic factor

The ethnic factor is key because most roles in US productions are still for the entertainment industry's main market: young white males and females. If the actor doesn't look like the members of the audience. credibility and empathy are a problem. So, he isn't cast.

Yes, there are more productions now geared for the black market, but *Pinoys* and *tisoys* are neither here nor there in this regard, so most of them are again left out in the cold.

Filipino actors' main focus should be on Asian and Mexican roles. Their number *is* increasing, so hope springs. Still, Julia should be ready to go for the long haul.

Any real chances of success? Well, Fil-Am stars like Lou Diamond Phillips, Rob Schneider, Tia Carrere, Paolo Montalban, and Vanessa Minillo have proven that it can be done.

However, we should point out that they're *Fil-Am* talents, so they're more attuned to the US scene than Julia. So, she should give herself more time to get market-savvy. Let's hope she makes it!

Love and other demons

From page A5-1

in 221 BC, Gen. Meng-Yi (Chan again) is torn between loyalty and subservience to his king and his love for Li (Hee-Seon Kim), a royal concubine who wishes to be emancipated from her unfortunate betrothal.

In scope, the premise of Chan's latest film sounds ambitious—but that's about it! Yes, the action star's balletic ability to fight and fly in his action scenes are boldly on display, but we've seen them many times over in the past.

So, when the thrill of watching the travelogue-like execution of the story starts to wane, the excitement also dissipates. Not even the participation of Bollywood's "Kissing Queen," Mallika Sherawat, could elevate the film beyond its adrenaline-induced patter.

Walker
Sexier ThanNude
Freebies Galore!
AVAILABLE AT ALL:
Isetann
DEPARTMENT STORE · SUPERMARKET
BEST AFFORDABLE DEPARTMENT STORE & SUPERMARKET
Absolutely Free Isetann Gift Check
Mechanics:
For every single receipt purchase of Walker products worth P400.00, he or she gets an Isetann Gift Check worth P100.00 absolutely FREE!
Promo Duration: Nov. 1 to 30, 2005
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 6351 Series of 2005
www.walker.com.ph

Their first picture together didn't look like this.
JPEG
BONDING.JPG

Canon
Delighting You Always
Introducing the Selphy Digital Photo Developer, the Develop-It-Yourself wonder from Canon.
Special occasions should never end up stored in your computers, phones, or CDs. Bring them out and share those birthdays, Christmases, and vacation memories. All your digital prints in an instant without the inconvenience of sending them off to commercial photo centers. For only 12 pesos per 4R print, you'll definitely have quality photos that will be shared for years to come.
4Rs P12
Selphy CP510
Selphy CP710 also available
Develop photos in panoramic, 4R, 3R, credit card and mini label sizes.
SELPHY
DIGITAL PHOTO DEVELOPER
FREE YOUR IMAGES
Insist on an original warranty issued by Canon Marketing (Philippines), Inc.
Canon Marketing (Philippines), Inc. 2F Marvin Plaza, 2153 Don Chino Roces Avenue cor. V.A. Rufino St., Makati City Tel.: 884-9000 • Fax: 810-9797 • info@canon.com.ph • www.canon.com.ph
Dealers: Abenson • Ambassador • Anson Emporium • Automatic Center • BGS Computers • Broadcom • Camera Plaza • Complink • CTC Photo Center • Dynamic Ultratech • Electroworld • Enigma Technologies • Island Photo • Kameraworld • Microsilicon • New Canary Photo • NT Computers • Octagon • Pc 4 Me • PC Corner • PC Options • Photolino • Picture City • Quickbite Micro Commerce Ltd. • Silicon Valley • Sun Appliance • Villman • Western Marketing
Provincial Dealers: AAC Tech • Shoppers Mart • Color Master • Colours Foto Shop • Solid Triangle • Mark Jellicoe

While the other DSL tries to catch up, Globelines Broadband offers you the fastest connection and lowest rates now.

True speed means doing things right now. That's why Globelines Broadband leaves competition behind by giving you the highest speeds at the lowest rates today. Subscribe now! Call (02) 919-8888* for Luzon, (032) 410-8888* for Visayas and Mindanao or 171 Toll-Free from any Globelines landline or payphone.

Active Gentxt members** must present any proof of membership upon application.
Qualified and current Explore subscribers paying the regular monthly service fee of P1,995 are now being upgraded to the new Explore Silver package.

*Standard NDD rates may apply to calls made from other carriers.
**Call Globelines Hotline listed above to verify service availability.

Globelines Broadband Residential Packages

Type of Package	Monthly Fee (Incl. 5% Tax)	Speed
Gentxt Express Unlimited	P995	up to 384 kbps
Express Unlimited	P1,495	up to 384 kbps
Explore Silver	P1,995	up to 768 kbps
Explore Gold	P2,995	up to 2 mbps

Globelines BROADBAND
Enriching real lives in real time.

www.globelines.com.ph

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BUSINESS

Text us your feedback: inquirer biz name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inq7money.net

Editor **Raul O. Marcelo**
Assistant Editor **Corrie S. Narisma**

B1

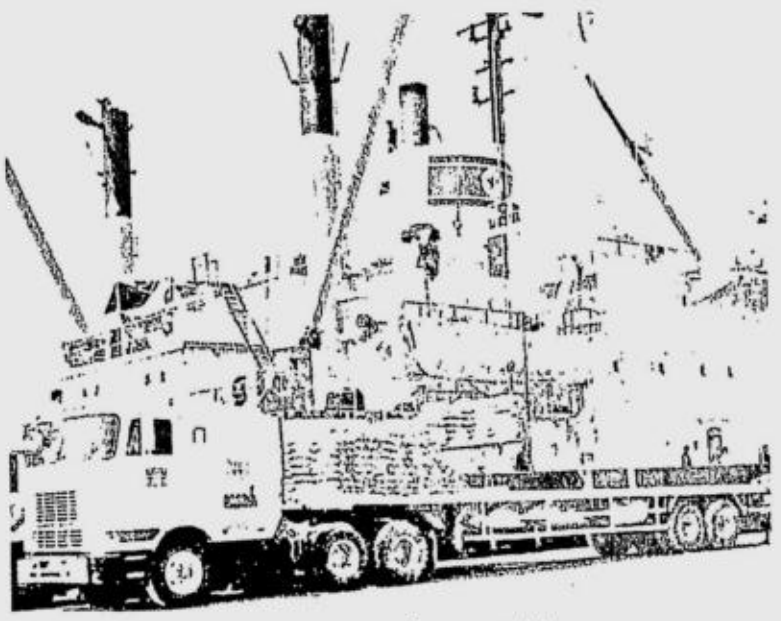
WHAT'S INSIDE

'06 inflation seen to hit 7.6-8.3% /B2

Cheaper power source offered to mining firms /B2

Imports jump 7.8% in Sept.

High oil prices push '05 bill up



IMPORT growth seen to average at 5 percent this year

By Michelle V. Remo

THE COUNTRY'S MERCHANDISE imports registered a 7.8-percent increase in September from year-ago level due largely to the steep rise in oil prices.

The National Statistics Office (NSO) yesterday reported that imports in September reached $4.114 billion, or $297 million higher than the $3.817 billion recorded in the same month last year.

The National Economic and Development Authority (Neda), head agency of the NSO, noted that Dubai crude, the benchmark used in setting domestic oil prices, jumped by almost 60 percent to $56.54 per barrel during the month from only $35.55 per barrel in September last year.

"The high oil prices in September largely had to do with it (rise in imports). I think the decline in oil prices (seen in the past few weeks) is only a correction. We have yet to see its real trend," said Jonathan Ravelas, chief market strategist at Banco de Oro.

Imports of mineral fuels, lubricants and other related materials jumped 86 percent to $757.64 million from last year's $407.31 million, NSO data showed.

The NSO also reported that electronics imports, composed mostly of raw materials for electronics products intended for export, dropped by 7.3 percent year-on-year to only

IMPORTS/ B2

Call center industry boosts demand for office space

By Ronnel W. Domingo

OFFICE SPACE RENTALS WENT UP 7.8 percent, while vacancy rates went down 5.4 percent in the third quarter, largely due to the continued growth of the call center and business process outsourcing industries.

According to real estate service firm CB Richard Ellis, overall demand for office space was not expected to plateau in the near future, especially in Metro Manila.

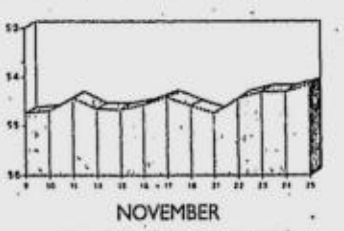
Joey Radovan, CBRE Philippines director for corporate services, said rental rates for premium or Grade A Makati office space increased to P550 a square meter from P510 in the second quarter. In Ortigas Center, Pasig City, prime space fetches up to P375 a square meter.

"Given the low vacancy rates and the lack of both contiguous office space in prime/Grade A buildings and available lands on which to build on especially , call centers and BPOs with large space needs are increasingly forced to move to alternative central business districts

CALL/ B2

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



NOVEMBER

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

$1 = ₱54.15

As of 5 p.m., Nov. 25, 2005

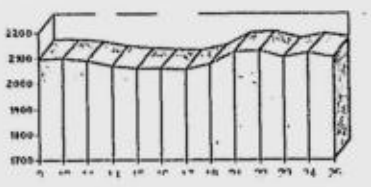
¥100 = ₱119.27

As of 5 p.m., Nov. 25, 2005

GOLD: $495.10-495.60

per ounce Hong Kong, Nov. 25, 2005

STOCK MARKET



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Shares down 0.64%

SHARES YESTERDAY CLOSED 0.64 percent lower as investors locked in gains ahead of a long weekend, with Philippine Long

SHARES/ B2

'06 inflation seen to hit 7.6-8.3%

BSP forecast lower than official figure of 8-8.5%

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG Pilipinas next year expects the country's inflation rate to average at a range of 7.6-8.3 percent—lower than the government's official forecast of 8-8.5 percent—due to the recent easing of oil prices.

For November, the inflation rate is also likely to slow down to 6.4-6.9 percent from 7 percent in October, BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said yesterday.

"There has been an easing of oil prices, and food prices have been stable," Tetangco told reporters at the sidelines of a forum held by the Philippine Economic Society.

From January to October this year, the inflation rate averaged at 7.9 percent, exceeding the government's 2005 target of 5-6 percent.

The BSP expects a lot of pressure from the planned increase in the value added tax rate next year. But the inflation rate next year may actually be lower than official forecasts due to improving global oil prices, Tetangco said.

The BSP, in its latest inflation forecasts, factored in a possible wage hike of about 5 percent next year.

However, the BSP's forecast for 2006 would still overshoot the 4-5 percent range under the government's inflation-targeting program. It would also be a bit higher than the 7.6-7.9 percent average expected for this year.

Consumer prices are expected to rise at a faster rate next year due to skyrocketing oil prices. Strong money supply growth will perk up consumer spending.

By next year, when the removal of tax exemptions would have been implemented, and the VAT rate increased from 10 to 12 percent, the inflation rate may increase by 2 percentage points, based on BSP estimates.

Another source of risk to the inflation outlook is the rapid increase in domestic liquidity, which may fuel demand-side inflation pressure as the economy strengthens.

Strong dollar inflows from overseas workers and portfolio investments perked up domestic liquidity this year, indicating a sharp increase in the demand for money.

JG Summit revives naphtha project

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

JG SUMMIT PETROCHEMICALS Corp. of the Gokongwei group was confident it would get enough funds to start its proposed $550-million naphtha cracker in Batangas City by March next year.

JG Summit Holdings president Lance Gokongwei said in a briefing this week that JG Summit was still in discussions with multilateral agencies that could fund the proposed petrochemical plant.

"We are still looking at financial closing at around March 2006. The total investment should be at $550 million," Gokongwei said.

He said it would take three years to complete the construction of the naphtha cracker, which could process up to 350,000 tons of raw materials.

A naphtha cracker would boost the revenue of the group's petrochemical business up to $450-$500 million a year from the present $150 million, Gokongwei said earlier.

JG Summit's petrochemical plants "are running at just about 45 percent of capacity and the planned backward integration is expected to at least double that rate," he had said.

A naphtha cracker produces ethylene and propylene, which are used as raw materials to produce plastic.

Another by-product, pyrolysis gasoline, or py-gas, is used to cool and clean industrial gases.

The project was touted as viable, as a squeeze in petrochemical supply in the region was felt last year amid rising demand in China.

JG Summit decided to revive its cracker project to cut dependence on imported raw materials from Singapore.

HONEST DAY'S WORK
Ifugao elders spend most of their time making fancy napkin holders, which they never use. The products are sold for P500 a piece to traders who, in turn, sell these with a 500-percent markup to shop owners in cities. Ifugao is the fourth poorest province in the country. EV ESPIRITU

Philweb brings int'l sports betting to RP

INTERNET FIRM PHILWEB CORP. of former Trade minister Roberto Ongpin has tied up with London-listed sports betting operator BetonSports PLC. to bring North American sports betting to the Philippines.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Philweb said the Philippine Gaming and Amusement Corp. (Pagcor) approved a contract between Philweb and BetonSports PLC, on sports betting, covering all North American sports including basketball (US NBA), football, baseball, golf and boxing.

The contract between Philweb and BoS covers all Las Vegas betting formats for straight bets and parlay for all sports events except soccer.

The contract took effect Thursday.

Philweb as the local partner will be BetonSports' marketing agent, and will provide the premises necessary for sports betting. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

Imports . . .

From page B1

$1.815 billion.

The performance of the electronics sector, which accounts for about 44 percent of the country's total import bill, is normally used as a gauge in projecting export trends. The decline in the importation of electronics products last September can therefore be taken as an indication that exporters continued to see the softening of demand in the months ahead.

Ravelas said the increase in oil prices was partly to blame for the slowdown in the global demand especially for non-basic products such as electronics.

He said the growth in the country's imports and exports would likely settle at a maximum of 5 percent for the full year of 2005.

Neda Director General Augusto Santos noted that imports of capital goods also registered an increase, which could indicate expansion of industry.capacity.

Imports of industrial machinery and equipment accounted for $191.06 million of the total import bill, up from $145.25 million last year. Imports of transport equipment also increased by 42.7 percent to $158.42 million from $111.02 million a year earlier.

The NSO said the other top imports for the month were: iron and steel, $104.49 million; textile, yarn, fabrics and related materials, $95.91 million; plastics, $82.67 million; and telecommunication equipment and electrical machinery, $82.33 million.

The United States remained the top source of imports, accounting for $747 million of the total, followed by Japan, $621.07 million.

Banks seek perks for collecting taxes

By Michelle V. Remo

THE CHAMBER OF THRIFT banks has proposed the granting of incentives to banks that serve as tax-collection agents of the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

Benjamin Yambao, president of the CTB, said incentives from the government would encourage more banks, including thrift banks, to help the BIR in collecting taxes.

At present, most of the banks serving as BIR-designated tax collectors are commercial banks. The CTB said it would be of great help to the BIR's tax collection efforts if thrift banks were also tapped.

Making tax payment procedures easy and the collectors taxpayer-friendly were considered as among the key measures to encourage taxpayers to remit taxes accurately and promptly, and increase the government's revenue collection.

Yambao said that at present, banks felt that collecting taxes for the BIR only jacked up their administrative costs. This, he said, was the reason why some of the banks were not too enthusiastic in doing the job.

"You have to designate an employee for that. And if the bank committed some errors, the BIR penalizes them," he said.

Yambao said the BIR earlier allowed tax-collecting banks to remit tax payments five to seven days upon receipt, thereby giving them time to earn from the money through very short-term investments. He said this was no longer allowed as banks were now required to remit their collections a day after receiving the tax payments.

Some thrift banks said that, if accredited by the BIR, they could do a lot in increasing revenue collection, especially since they could reach out to small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

SMEs, some of which cannot afford to hire the services of auditors, find difficulties in computing and remitting proper taxes, causing huge revenue loss for the government.

Call center industry . . .

From page B1

such as Alabang and Fort Bonifacio," Radovan said.

The call center sector alone is expected to hit 60,000 seats by the end of the year from just 1,500 seats in 2000.

"Industry forecasts of 100-percent growth in call center seats over the next two or three years translates into greater demand for office space as well as increased occupancy of hotels and serviced apartments," Radovan said.

He added that these companies were also looking at moving to "fringe areas" of the cities where they would build their own buildings or converting shopping malls and other types of retail establishments into suitable space.

Shares . . .

From page B1

Distance Telephone (PLDT) leading the losers, dealers said.

Financial markets are closed Monday for a public holiday. Trading resumes Tuesday.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index fell 13.55 points to 2,106.10, after trading between 2,098.38 and 2,121.98. Turnover was 1.09 billion shares worth P783 million.

The all-shares index fell 6.18 points to 1,274.42. *AFP*

FDC secures ₱540-M loan

FILINVEST DEVELOPMENT Corp. of the Gotianun family has secured a five-year P540-million loan from ING Bank N.V. and Insular Life Assurance Co. Ltd. to refinance debts.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE), FDC said it has signed an agreement on Thursday with both banks for various trust accounts covering terms of the loan.

Sources said the P540 million will be used to prepay some debts.

FDC, in its disclosure, told the PSE that proceeds of the loan would also be used to refinance obligations of its subsidiaries, and to meet its capital working requirements.

In its Sept. 30 financial statement, which it filed with the PSE, the FDC said long term debt increased due to availment of various project development loans to finance new projects.

As of Sept. 30, total consolidated assets stood at P82.8 billion, while consolidated bonds payable and long-term debt was pegged at P10.73 billion.

Net income during the first nine months was 129 percent higher at P383.7 million from P167.4 million due to the growth in its real estate operations.

FDC is the listed holding company of the Filinvest group of companies, which traces its origins to the consumer finance business established by Andrew L. Gotianun, Sr. and his family in 1955. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

Cheaper power source offered to mining firms

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—MINING FIRMS worried about the impact of the expanded value added tax on power and fuel have been offered an alternative energy system that promises to cut their fuel consumption by 50-80 percent.

A former instructor of the Philippine Military Academy offered the Philippine Chamber of Mines and the Philippine Society of Mining Engineers a hybrid power generator that mixes wind energy and diesel to produce clean electricity for isolated mining operations.

Cris Mercado, an official of the Coastal Power Development Corp., discussed this power system from Denmark before the 52nd Mine Safety and Environment Conference here last week.

The firm is part of the Coastal Power Consortium, which won the bid in September to operate the small power utilities group of the National Power Corp. as part of its privatization program.

Mercado said wind energy would help consumers of Marinduque, Romblon and Mindoro reduce their power cost to P7 a kilowatt-hour of electricity.

Napocor's diesel plants used to cost consumers there P13 a kwh, he said.

Most mines in the country find diesel-fueled electrical generators convenient, he said, because they operate in remote areas.

"But the reliability of diesel plants always comes with a price of heavy fuel consumption and poor efficiency," he said.

Wind turbine technology has already been adapted to diesel plants, but local technology allows the turbines to contribute only 20-30 percent of the total electrical demand, he said.

He said it was expensive for the current technology to convert the production of traditional wind energy into energy compatible to electricity that flows through the grids.

But he said the Danish system being offered to the mines have worked out these limitations.

Mines can be assured that for the hybrid power plant, "diesel serves only as back up to compensate for the portion [of electrical flow which] wind can't provide momentarily, thus keeping fuel consumption at an absolute minimum," he said.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of November 25, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	3.7	3.9	3.7	3.9	2,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	34.5	34.5	34	34.5	401,600
Bank of the Phil. Islands	59	59	58.5	58.5	693,600
China Banking Corp.	610	610	610	610	350
Citystate Savings Bank	17.25	17.25	17.25	17.25	600
Export And Ind. Bank Inc.	0.63	0.64	0.63	0.64	600,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	55	55	54.5	55	224,300
International Exch. Bank	21.25	21.25	21.25	21.25	5,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	32	32	31	31.5	1,877,900
Philippine National Bank	30.5	30.5	30.5	30.5	5,100
Phil. Savings Bank	34	34	34	34	100
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	18,000
Security Bank Corp.	35	35	34	34	104,100
Union Bank of the Phil.	30.5	30.5	30.5	30.5	3,500
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Manulife Financial Corp.	3100	3110	3100	3100	1,010
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2110	2170	2110	2170	3,980
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	54,300
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.93	0.93	0.92	0.93	1,770,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	770	785	770	785	145,080
Ipeople Inc.	3.2	3.55	3.2	3.4	883,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.0525	0.0525	0.049	0.05	5,300,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.048	0.049	0.048	0.049	900,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.35	3.35	3.3	3.3	546,000
Transpacific Broadband	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	20,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1740	1740	1730	1735	64,400
Ivantage Corp.	0.59	0.59	0.59	0.59	500,000
Philweb Corp.	0.016	0.017	0.016	0.017	256,200,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	14.75	14.75	14.25	14.25	171,300
Manila Electric Co. B	23.25	23.25	23	23	292,100
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.6	6.6	6.5	6.5	49,000
Petron Corp.	4.35	4.35	4.25	4.25	2,333,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.96	0.96	0.96	0.96	50,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.86	1.86	1.86	1.86	144,000
Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp.	1.66	1.66	1.66	1.66	2,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	9.5	9.7	9.5	9.6	192,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.69	0.69	0.68	0.68	2,040,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	130,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3.65	3.8	3.65	3.8	6,196,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	6,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.55	3.55	3.55	3.55	44,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	2,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	26	26	26	26	17,500
Jollibee Foods Corp.	40	40	39.5	39.5	123,400
Pancake House Inc.	3.6	3.9	3.6	3.85	8,869,000
RFM Corp.	0.71	0.74	0.69	0.74	400,000
San Miguel Corp. A	64	64.5	63.5	64.5	102,500
San Miguel Corp. B	88.5	89.5	88.5	88.5	69,300
Universal Robina Corp.	17.75	17.75	17.75	17.75	16,100
Vitarich Corp.	0.3	0.31	0.3	0.31	320,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	20,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	2,000,000
Ayala Corp.	345	345	337.5	340	101,450
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.9	4.9	4.85	4.9	875,000
Ajo Net Holdings Inc.	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	4,500,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	20,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	69,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.82	0.86	0.82	0.84	2,480,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.56	1.56	1.56	1.56	20,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9.4	9.5	9.4	9.5	55,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.155	0.16	0.155	0.16	750,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	4,056,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.91	1	0.9	0.99	1,260,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	100,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	30,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.28	8,100,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.2	3.2	3.15	3.2	1,218,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	2,000,000
F&J Prince Holdings Corp.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	10,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	50	50.5	49.5	50.5	540,400
House Of Investments Inc.	0.9	0.95	0.9	0.95	700,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.7	3.7	3.65	3.7	1,618,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.68	1.68	1.68	1.68	35,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.3	1.32	1.3	1.32	517,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	1,160,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.37	0.37	0.36	0.36	4,940,000
Paxys Inc.	6.3	6.4	6.3	6.3	1,102,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	100,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.3	1.32	1.3	1.32	733,000
SM Investments Corp.	248	248	246	248	120,950
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	3.25	3.3	3.25	3.3	6,000
Univide Holdings Inc.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	10,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.25	500,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	25,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.76	0.76	0.76	0.76	220,000
Panasonic Mfg Phil Corp.	7	7	7	7	5,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.08	1.08	3,963,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.52	1.52	1.5	1.5	316,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.33	0.35	0.33	0.34	8,200,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PDR)	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	845,100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	100
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.8	38,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	9.8	9.8	9.6	9.7	4,814,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	30,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.08	1.08	1,154,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.27	3,070,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.225	0.23	0.225	0.225	900,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	6,590,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.38	1.38	1.36	1.36	2,748,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.5	0.51	0.5	0.51	240,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.13	0.135	0.13	0.13	970,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	6.1	6.1	6	6.1	793,000
SM Development Corp.	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	50,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	8.8	8.8	8.7	8.7	2,962,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	11,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	6.2	6.3	6.1	6.3	1,132,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.52	1.52	1.52	1.52	90,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.23	0.23	0.22	0.225	2,790,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.26	0.26	0.245	0.25	18,650,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.019	0.019	0.019	0.019	253,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.029	0.029	0.028	0.029	158,200,000
Omico Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	80,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	1.26	1.26	1.24	1.24	3,114,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.54	1.54	1.48	1.5	3,922,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	26.5	26.5	26	26.5	1,336,700
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.26	570,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	1,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	49,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	47,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	10,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	3.8	4.1	3.8	4	589,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.145	0.15	0.14	0.14	9,700,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.36	0.37	0.36	0.37	910,000

CURRENCIES

November 25, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.848248	1.000000	54.2390
Japan	Yen	0.007134	0.008410	0.4561
United Kingdom	Pound	1.461617	1.723100	93.4592
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.109419	0.128994	6.9965
Switzerland	Franc	0.644713	0.760052	41.2245
Canada	Dollar	0.724009	0.853534	46.2948
Singapore	Dollar	0.501863	0.591646	32.0903
Australia	Dollar	0.626013	0.738007	40.0288
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.250533	2.653153	143.9044
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.226194	0.266660	14.4634
Brunei	Dollar	0.500383	0.589901	31.9956
Indonesia	Ruplah	0.000085	0.000100	0.0054
Thailand	Baht	0.020623	0.024313	1.3187
UAE	Dirham	0.230947	0.272264	14.7673
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.178900	63.9424
Argentina	Peso	0.288275	0.339847	18.4330
Brazil	Real	0.379920	0.447888	24.2930
Denmark	Kroner	0.134083	0.158070	8.5736
India	Rupee	0.018569	0.021891	1.1873
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.224553	0.264725	14.3584
Mexico	New Peso	0.079957	0.094261	5.1126
New Zealand	Dollar	0.588000	0.693193	37.5981
Norway	Kroner	0.126930	0.149638	8.1162
Pakistan	Rupee	0.014196	0.016736	0.9077
South Africa	Rand	0.129660	0.152856	8.2908
Korea	Won	0.000819	0.000966	0.0524
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025370	0.029909	1.6222

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2005

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS

The Widest Reaching Classifieds

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION

Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8978425 (Direct) ☎ 8978808 (Trunk) Fax 8978425
G/F ATRIUM BLDG., MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY
☎ 912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6872354 ☎ 6872366 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 5224406 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

ANNOUNCEMENT

INQUIRER CLASSIFIEDS MEGAMALL BRANCH will be open on Monday, November 28, 2005 from 10:00 AM - 9:00 PM

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE | REAL ESTATE FOR SALE | REAL ESTATE FOR SALE | REAL ESTATE FOR SALE | REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CORTE BELLA

The Metro Homes Division of FILINVEST LAND, INC.

OPEN HOUSE ON NOV. 27

SOUTHPEAK

San Pedro, Laguna

No Downpayment! 5 years at 0% Interest!*

*Lots only

Only TEN (10) minutes from Alabang via the San Pedro Exit!

For inquiries, pls. call: **772-2745**

Farmlots and Residential Lots for SALE!

TIMBERLAND HEIGHTS

For Inquiries Contact:

LHITO O. BAMUEVO (02) 715-4232
CONNIE C. ROXAS (02) 900-8020
BOB A. SUYOM 727-0479 LOC. 482

MACRODEN REALTY

A quality product of: FILINVEST LAND INCORPORATED

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

MEDICAL

PHYSICIAN/SURGEON

RAPID Tx VD-STD
Ex. SWEAT PIMPLES KELOID ALLERGY WARTS SKIN PEEL
15 Annapolis Greenhills
Call 7276124 - 25 9am-7pm

PERSONAL

ARCHITECTS

ARCHT/2D/3D (0927)9194639

COSMETOLOGY

WHITENING CAPS P1500
PINK Nips Lips Cheeks Cream
P800 • 4545657• 09189235216

MISCELLANEOUS

We are offering Quality IT SERVICES in WEB DEVELOPMENT & DESIGN
For details & inquiries
. Pls. Call 09178302994/email jerric_tode@yahoo.com

HOUSEHOLD

HOUSEHOLD JOBS

A'A MAIDS/YAYA 4386920
All arnd Maid Yaya 4399290
BEST MAIDS PROV'L 4162896
Direct Maid Yaya Intl cook 7289060
Direct Maid Yaya Cook Boy 8955702
Good Maid Ya' A/A Cook 7574339
Help Agency 5328376 • 5321947
LOW RATE Maid 4337898
MARSIFOR AGENCY 4373040
NEED MAIDS 4328194
Trained Maids w/NBI 4395725
Trusted Maids Yaya H'boy 7572089
Yaya, Cook H'maid 8957507

LIPAT BAHAY

•731-6833•LIPAT
L-BAHAY 9206784 4540520
Cheap 9260424/09163416775
OPEN&CLOSE VANS TEL/731-8549
•P1300/TRIP 742-14-57

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

COMML/RESDL

QUEZON CITY

★ KATIPUNAN EXT ★
LA315-1119m² Comml nr Ateneo
P9500-10T/m² 0918-9235216

HOUSE & LOT

KALOOCAN

120Sqm 4BR 2TB w/Grge
5M neg 3650204 3652040

HOUSE & LOT

MAKATI

3.5M Cardona St. 09208309744

Lots, H&L C5 nr Fort
1.4M-13M Nr McKinley Hills 4-5br
10% DP or 3Yrs No Int or No DP
10mins Fr. Ayala 0917-8313226

MANILA

INTRAMUROS 09153709774

NR LA SALLE TAFT
BnewThse/3stry/3br/3-4tb
maids1-2grgeP3.995M8903461

SAN ANDRES MANILA
5BR 5T&B 4 CAR GARAGE
MARICEL 5344515-61

MARIKINA

97SQ 4BR 2FLR NR STA LU
9158015 0917-8580878 P2M

Bnew 4br3tb jacuzi 3.2M 9487112

PROVIDENT VILL nr ATENEO
413m² w/ 3hses nr gate P4M
LOT ONLY 301m² gate Rush
2.2Mneg T6356003; 9338423

QUEZON CITY

120SQM FILINVEST 2 QC
CORNER LOT SEMI FURNISHD
CALL JUN 0915-4057078

3 STRY 4BR 5CR NICE
BIG 300LA 370FA 9.5M 38
DAGUPAN SFDM
09178909502

Arcadia 4br 09175213838

NICE Bnew 4BR5TB garden
Dreamhse 28 Balete 7218182

VISTA REAL woodhouse on
Hilltop P2.6M 09196543551

CAVITE

BACOOR 535K CP-092726690

LAGUNA

Brandnew H&L 1M-25M (10am-5pm)
842-1914/842-9570/0915-8260255

Laguna Bel-Air Sta Rosa
Low D/P Edna 0917-8312369
Mariel 0917-6215864

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

10%DP Lipat Agad!
1.3M-Up 3Yrs. No Int 2-4BR
C5 Near Fort / Mkti 0917-8169849

MAKATI CONDO
1ST CLASS RENT/SALE
BARE/FURNISHED 1&2BR
09205726686 / 5311267

MAKATI CONDO
RENT / SALE : Ready to move-in
843-0887 / 887-5318
www.condo.com.ph

MKTI/MLA BNEW CONDO
SALE / RENT 0917-6266516

RUSH! CONDO nr C5 D'Fort
Lakeview Manors 2BR w/Prkg 1.4M
0905-2021143 • 0917-8212400

MANDALUYONG

CONDO, BNEW, 09192189817

Condo4Sale 8WackWack Rd. 6F
174sm 3BRM 3 1/2 Bath 2CPA ek
Upgrade Unit 0917-8865134

CONDO/TWNHSE

MANDALUYONG

MANDA NEAR SHAW
BnewThse/3stry/3br/ 3-4tb
maids1-2grgeP3.780M8903461

PARANAQUE

1.4M RESORT-TYPE nr NAIA
10% DP to move-in, or 0%, or No DP
1st Class, Bnew • 0917-5234223

PASIG

★GRAND 21★
The Newest Low Rise
Rsdtl Condo Bside Ortigas
Inside Capitolyo Subd.
Studio 1BR / 2BR Penthouse
1.05M Up 24 HR SECURITY
2MINS. AWAY FROM MEGMALL
Call: 638-1888 • 638-8188

Malayan Plaza 634-1212

MAYFIELD CONDO PASIG
Makro/C5 D Fort 2-4BR RFO
1st Class Resort Type No DP
Rent 2 Own 0927-2401098

Rent / Sale 123BR Terms RFO
Call 414-0573

QUEZON CITY

1studio unit 30.19m² in-front NCBA nr LRT Aurora 1.5neg 7230227/28 Nemy

Cubao P1.5M 10%DP 5yrs to Pay "0" Interest 9126976 Rose

New Mla 4br 09175213838

SAN JUAN

NEAR GREENHILLS
BnewThse/3stry/3br/3-4tb
maids 1-2 grge P3.780Mup 8903461

CAVITE

Malayan Plaza Best Location
Podium Rdy Dec 09177914366

LAGUNA

6 Units Townhouses w/in d
Hot Springs 0917-8865134

LOT

MAKATI

GUADALUPE NUEVO 3 LOTS
762 SQM CALL 09195998039

MARIKINA

354M² TOWN & COUNTRY MARCOS
P3,7M² 915-8015 0917-8580878

QUEZON CITY

114m² @525K; 130m² @650K
932-7426 • 0917-5258034

GRAND VILLAS Top Row
w/view back ATENEO LOTS
hse & lots avble 426-5650
929-1832 • 0919-8212235

★KATIPUNAN Ext Resl lot
nr UP Ateneo 204 to 408m²
P8,500/m² 0918-9235216★

NORTHVIEW I BATASAN DBO
272m² P5950/m² 655-8804

Rush Acropolis Morning Sun
Very Nice Location @P13M
•T8896475;4796 6337601-03•

OTHER AREAS

Talisay City Cebu 189m²
Pacific Hts URGENT!
Tel 8274423 Pia Rodriguez

LOT

CAVITE

RUSH SALE LOT-TERRAZAS
PUNTA FUEGO 09178410930

OFFICE SPACE

Pioneer(Globe) Mandaluyong 89-206m² Rent/Sale 09192189817

MEMORIAL LOT

8Lots Loyola Marikina
09189026306 / 9412350

Heritage Park II 634-1212

FARM/FISHPEN/ RAWLANDS

MANGO ORCHARD FARM
14 HECTARES PLANTED TO 300+ MANGO TREES AT TERNATE CAVITE NR PUERTO AZUL GIVE AWAY AT 115/SQM
NO TENANTS CLEAN TITLE
09185101594•8230916

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

COMMERCIAL

QUEZON CITY

Studio FF Newly Renovated
Nice View Garden Hts 269 E.
Rodriguez Sr. Blvd
Tel 810-0768 • 892-4328

COMMERCIAL/ RESIDENTIAL

QUEZON CITY

BURGUNDY PLAZA KATIPUNAN Q.C.
FRNT ATENEO FA50 m² (res) 75&110m²
(Ideal for SPA, GYM, CALL CENTER)
9289541 / 7361925

HOUSE

MANDALUYONG

Sta. Lucia St. 3BR Grg 5347689

VARIOUS AREAS

Ponte St. Makati 2BR
Greymarvil LasPinas 2BR
w/ Parking • 8983447

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

CTL8 STU 1BR 8T 11T 9299835

Stud-Legaspi Vil. 0917-8454534

MANILA

CONDO NR UST 09155835289

Ocean Tower, Rxs Blvd 3BR&TB, Pkg, Facing Bay 55K; 09178587929

P4T T'do / SC 2547788 P4.5
S Mesa 7132259 9175563211

MARIKINA

Bnew 2sty 2BR w/covrd grge
Tierra Vista Subd 9480309

PARANAQUE

Better Living Pque Twnhse
Unit 16 Thailand St.
Call 8974044 • Ashley

PASIG

3br2cg 15T nr SM Mega 9002400

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

CONDO/TWNHSE

QUEZON CITY

CUBAO, COLUMBIA 2BR Furn
P18TH/MO SAVELL 646-1603

APARTMENT

MAKATI

3BR 13T CP09189363199

MANILA

840 P.Noval NR UST Tel
7313035 7361925 9289541

MANDALUYONG

APT 4 RENT MAND. W/2BR
CALL 5324247 0918-6153907

PASAY

2stry Conc. 2&3bdr nr DFA
5510310 CP:0910-9204885

SAN JUAN

BIG 2STRY P9T 7008515

WAREHOUSE/ FACTORY

1800m² New Meycauayan
Tollgate NLEX 726-4046

•CABUYAO LAGUNA NEW WHSES
850-2700m² INSULATED ROOF
4RENT 09186267995

ROOM & BOARD

4T For1; 5T For1/2 Cmpd
7191722; 0917-5258034
Walk MRT-SM North

Only P200! Daily, Wkly!!!
Sucat, Paranaque 8257524

P150! Manila 7836781 Daily, Wkly 09228321888

BEDSPACE

Mkti nr Ayala P1T Ldy 8974697

LOAN & MORTGAGE

BUSINES .DCTOR 524-3197 0919-3227420

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

MAKATI

2BR 1Mds Rm 3TB Sale 5M•Rent 30T /mo. 110m² nr Mkt City Hall Call Arlene 6990612/09287132967

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

BMW

BMW 325 '87 Superkinis All Orig A1Cond 310T T:8152568

DODGE

2003 DURANGO IST-OWN LOW MILEAGE P1M 0917-8410930

Dodge Caravan '89 P380T Negotibale TEL:8181805

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

HONDA

'02 Civic VTI automatic fully loaded mettalic gray 480Tneg 09189026306 / 9412350

ISUZU

02 Isuzu Trooper 1 own 30T Kms 1.05M Neg. 523-1960 / 0928-3667789

MERCEDES

'89 SEL300 A1 Orig 9002400

MITSUBISHI

99SpWgn A1 LowMile 9002400

L300 FB 02 380T 09189039302

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

NISSAN

NISSAN BRAND NEW PROMO! SENTRA NO DP URVAN 95T DP X-TRAIL 70T DP 09172587749

OTHER CAR BRANDS

BERYLLE CARS
Araneta Ctr Cubao nr All Mall finance T-in consignment Pajero Trooper Lite-TownAce Delica Serena Largo Estima Safari Surf Fargo rvr Elf Canter 4-6W etc slot rental
0917-8342020 / 02-9120647

MOTORCYCLE

5Units 2002 Honda XLR200
0928-3895123, 0921-4940938

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

Affordable Rent a Car Hiace, Vios, Corolla Low Rates 0920-9518097

CarsVans CoasterBus 422-9296

MARIAN CARS•VANS•BRDAL 8 9 6 9 9 5 6

CARS•VAN•XPDTN•COASTER•BENZ
8131975/76 (0917)8334555

Cheap Van 9330311;9348411

•FRANCIS CAR RENTAL•
ALL CARS U/DRIVE W/DRIVER
T-8334476,7291858 CEL 09189985175

L3 09163443087 / 8738947

CRV Innova Starex 9483535

P800/L3 9136710 / 4333682

RENT A VAN
0917-5444721 • 642-4405

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

ABC-CARS & VANS
Starex, Urvan, REVO, L300, HiAce, MB100, Altis, Honda, Celiro, Lancer, Corolla, Lynx, Corona, Exalta Mazda, Sentra
Manila H.O. 5368822 / 3039789
Q.C. Br. 426-2278 426-4084

CAR LOAN

1% Auto Easy 5344441

1% AUTOLOAN 788-0381

1% Car Lending 915-3460
United Treo Car Loan Corp.

1% CARLOAN 373-6519

1% Easy Car Loan 411254?/48

1% w/out taking car 7262780

1% w/out taking car 5315577

1.5% Easy Car Loan 3748765

1.5% easy carloan 7815352/55

National Power Corporaton

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Republic of the Philippines
NPC, PSD 2005-016

VARIOUS EQUIPMENT, SPARE PARTS, WORK ORDERS INTENDED FOR NPC MAJOR POWER PLANTS

1. The NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION, through its approved Corporate Budget of CY 2005 intends to apply the sum of (see schedule under 9) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract as listed below. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected/disqualified at Bid opening.
2. The NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for GOODS as listed below. Delivery of the GOODS are required by the date indicated in the bid documents. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, Instruction to Bidders (ITB).
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act", and is restricted to Filipino Citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights to privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to post qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who shall determine as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM, Monday to Friday. However, issuance of Bidding Documents shall start on November 29, 2005 from 8:30 AM to 11:30 AM, Monday to Friday. No Bid Documents will be issued on the date of bidding.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount as listed below. The method of payment will be cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on the dates as listed below at National Power Corporation's available function rooms.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before the dates as listed below. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of cash, certified check, cashiers check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit equivalent to one percent (1%) of the ABC; Bank guarantee equivalent to one and a half percent (1.5%) of the ABC; Surety bond equivalent to two and a half percent (2.5%) of the ABC; Foreign guarantee equivalent to one hundred percent (100%) of the ABC, or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on the dates as listed below at National Power Corporation's available function rooms. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
9. ITEMS FOR BID

SCHEDULE NUMBER	PR NUMBER	ITEM DESCRIPTION	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT	BID DOCS. PRICE
DATE OF RE-BIDDING / BIDDING : DECEMBER 20, 2005; 9:00 AM				
16A1	OTMS-05-014 (ZC)	PORTABLE STACK EMISSION (PB2)	P2,000,000.00	P 1,000.00
16A2	OWIT-05-096 (EA)	CME-DIESEL 1% BLEND OF COCONUT METHYL ESTER & 99% DIESEL FUEL (BICOCO-BIODIESEL)	P6,660,000.00	P 3,000.00
16A3	OWIT-05-097 (EA)	FUEL, UNLEADED GASOLINE, FOR HIGH COMPRESSION ENGINE	P5,600,000.00	P 3,000.00

NOTE . A Pre-Bidding Conference will be held at any available NPC Function Room on **December 8, 2005 at 9:00 A.M.**

10. The NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
PROCUREMENT SERVICES DIVISION
MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
Agham Rd., cor. Quezon Avenue
Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. No. +632 921 2818
rccardeno@napocor.gov.ph
Fax No. +632 921 7906 / 921 3382
www.napocor.gov.ph

BIDS & AWARDS COMMITTEE-PSD

(PDI – November 26, 2005)

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

P. O. Box 789, Manila, Philippines
6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Philippines
Tel. Nos. 632 4302; 632 4231; 632 4444; Fax No. 631-6899
Email: psantiago@adb.org, cjpanganiban@adb.org or ljpaterno@adb.org

INVITATION to PREQUALIFY for CONTRACT No. ADB/OAS-2005/060 (PROVISION of TRANSPORTATION SERVICES)

1. The Asian Development Bank ("ADB"), a multilateral development institution headquartered in Manila, Philippines, invites companies to apply for prequalification required in subsequent bidding exercise for the provision of transportation services for ADB Staff (hereinafter referred to as "Services").
2. It is expected that the Invitation to Bid for the bidding exercise will be issued no later than January 2006.
3. Prequalification is open to firms and voluntarily formed joint ventures from eligible member countries of ADB.
4. Interested eligible applicants may request further information by calling, writing or faxing, the Procurement and Contracts Administration Section, Institutional Services Division, Office of Administrative Services, Asian Development Bank at the contact address specified above starting from **9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**, during any working day.
5. The Contractor shall provide the number of chauffer-driven vehicles of late model and one vehicle dispatcher at ADB premises, required for transportation services. The scope of services is provided in detail in the Work Performance Statement to be given to interested applicants.
6. The Prequalification Documents may be obtained from the Procurement and Contracts Administration Section, Institutional Services Division, Office of Administrative Services, Room 1636 South, at the above address, from **28 November to 2 December 2005 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** Note that ADB will be observing Bonifacio Day on 30 November 2005.
7. Applicants will be required to submit two copies (marked "Original," and "Copy") of applications for prequalification each in a sealed envelope, which must be delivered either by hand or registered mail addressed to the attention of the **Head, Procurement and Contracts Administration Section, Institutional Services Division, Office of Administrative Services, Rm. 1636S,** Asian Development, Bank, 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila, Philippines, **not later than 3:00 p.m., 9 December 2005,** and be clearly marked **"Application to Prequalify for Transportation Services".**
8. Applicants will be advised, in due course, of the result of their applications. Only prequalified applicants shall be invited to participate in the bidding exercise to be conducted by ADB.
9. This Invitation does not entail any commitment on the part of ADB, either financial or otherwise. Any cost of preparation of the prequalification documents shall be borne solely by the applicant. ADB reserves the right to accept or reject any or all applications for prequalification.

Chairperson
Institutional Procurement Committee
Office of Administrative Services

Asian Development Bank ADB
FIGHTING POVERTY IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

(PDI - Nov. 25 & 26, 2005)

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

Date : November 24, 2005

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Republic of the Philippines

Construction and Erection of 69kV Santiago-Alicia Transmission Line Project (Sp05.SATL.Lt-0055)

The works to be performed for the above project by the successful bidder consist of furnishing all superintendence, labor, materials and equipment (except materials and equipment specified to be furnished by TransCo), clearing of right-of-way, construction of steel tower foundations, erection of steel towers, installation of line hardware, stringing of 336.4 MCM ACSR "LINNET" conductors and 7 no. 6 AWG Aluminum-Clad OHGW including re-location of two (2) wood poles and its transfer of gantry connection. The Project which is approximately 19.8 kilometers is located in the Province of Isabela, Northern Part of Luzon.

1. The National Transmission Corporation (TransCo), through the Annual Corporate Budget for the contract approved by the governing board, intends to apply the sum of Sixty Two Million Five Hundred Two Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty Nine (Php 62,502,959.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Construction and Erection of 69kV Santiago-Alicia Transmission Line Project (Sp05.SATL.Lt-0055). Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The National Transmission Corporation (TransCo) now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs) from potential Bidders to apply for eligibility for the project described above. Bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the above type and cost of the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents. Interested Bidders must submit their LOIs on or before the date and time at the address given below and secure the Eligibility Documents therefrom upon payment of non-refundable fee, also as stated below. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for the submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents shall be on the date of the opening of Eligibility Documents stated below. Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Documents.
   PCAB License and Registration Particular required should be as follows:
   License Particular : at least Category "A" Contractors with
   Registration Particulars : at least "Medium B", Building and Industrial Plant and "Medium B", Specialty: Electrical Works
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184, only Bids from eligible Bidders will be opened. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184 a contract will only be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.
4. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from TransCo and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee stated below. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative starting from the schedule specified below.
6. TransCo will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders on the schedule stated below.
7. Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the address below on or before the schedule of submission and opening specified below. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in any form and in amount stated in the Bidding Documents or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. The Contractor shall complete the works within One Hundred Eighty (180) calendar days counted from the effective date stated in the Notice to Proceed.
9. TransCo reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

ACTIVITY	DATE and TIME	VENUE
Issuance of Eligibility Documents	Starting November 25, 2005 8:00 am to 5:00 pm	BCMD office address below
Submission & opening of Eligibility Documents	December 9, 2005, 9:00 am	De La Paz Function Room, Training Center Bldg., Transco, Diliman, Q.C.
Issuance of Bidding Documents	Starting December 22, 2005, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm	BCMD office address below
Pre-Bid Conference	January 10, 2006, 1:30 pm	BCMD office address below
Submission of Bids & Opening	January 18, 2006, 9:00 am	BCMD office address below

Cost of Eligibility Documents per copy P 800.00
Cost of Bidding Documents per copy P 7,000.00

The address of the BAC Secretariat is:
MR. JOSE MARI M. ILAGAN
Manager, Bids and Contracts Management Department
Ground Floor, TransCo Main Building
National Transmission Corporation
Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road
Diliman, Quezon City 1104
Telephone Nos.: 981-2308; 981-2212; 981-2213
Facsimile No.: 921-2308
Email Address : jmilagan@transco.ph
Website Address : www.transco.ph

(Sgd.) GUILLERMO R. REDOBLADO
VP-Luzon Operation & Maintenance
& Chairman, Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI – Nov. 26 & Dec. 5, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Central Regional Office Luzon Office
Cabanatuan City

INVITATION TO APPLY AND FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID FOR INTEGRATED CARGO HANDLING SERVICES FOR NFA REGION III

The National Food Authority, NFA Central Luzon Regional Office, Cabanatuan City, through its 2006 Corporate Operating Budget intends to apply the sum of P46,291,456.00 being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the provision of Integrated Cargo Handling Services at Subic Port for the year 2006. The volumes to be discharged are 80,000 MT of NFA Imported grains and USPL 480 of 48,000 MT, more or less. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The scope of services to be bid for integrated services at Subic Port include Arrastre, Stevedoring, Wharfage, Hustling, Truckscaling, Opening/Closing of Hatches, Stand-By Charges, Import Entry documentation/Gate Pass, and other Port Services.

The application for eligibility and pertinent bidding documents can be secured from NFA-CLRO, Cabanatuan City, Regional Bids and Awards Committee (RBAC) upon payment of a non-refundable application fee of P5,000.00 and submission of certified xerox copy each of the following documents:

1) DTI business name registration, CDA Registration and/or SEC registration certificate, whichever may be appropriate;
2) Mayor's Permit (CY 2005) and Official Receipt;
3) Current registration certificate as cargo handler with SBMA;
4) Current Permit To Operate (PTO) issued by SBMA;
5) Current Certificate of good standing with SBMA;
6) Certification of at least three (3) years experience in grains (in bags) cargo handling/ unloading (pierside) for the past three (3) years issued by PPA or SBMA as principal contractor

The bidding of Integrated Services shall be conducted at NFA-CLRO, Conference Room, Cabanatuan City on the following schedule:

PARTICULARS	DATE	TIME
1. Issuance of Bid Application and Bid Documents	November 29- December 15, 2005	8:00 am – 5:00 pm
2. Pre-Bidding Conference	December 16, 2005	10:00am
3. Submission and Opening of Bids	January 03, 2006	10:00am

The bidding of Integrated Cargo Handling Services at Subic Port shall be governed by RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations. For further inquiries, please contact the RBAC Chairman or Secretariat at NFA-CLRO, Cabanatuan City with Telephone Nos. (044)-463-1167, (044)-463-1168 and (044)-463-1233.

THE NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS THEREOF, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITIES OR DEFECTS FOUND THEREIN, OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS OR TO AWARD TO ANY CONTRACTOR WHOSE BID IS CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE NFA OR TO THE GOVERNMENT.

(Sgd.) RUBEN J. RESIDE
RBAC Chairman/Asst. Regional Director

(PDI – November 26 & December 03, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
National Food Authority
Quezon City

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Supply and Delivery of Pest Control and Sanitation Equipment

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA) now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for Supply and Delivery of the following Pest Control and Sanitation Equipment (Goods for Short)

LOT No.	EQUIPMENT	QUANTITY	APPROVED BUDGET
1	Fogging Machine	24 units	P 2,160,000.00
2	Fogging Machine Computerized	1 unit	500,000.00
3	Motorized Backpack Sprayer (Knapsack Type)	28 units	1,755,000.00
4	Gas Masks with Canisters / Respiratory Filter	30 sets	450,000.00
5	Industrial Vacuum Cleaner	23 units	705,000.00

Delivery of the Goods is required within 60 days from issuance of Notice to Proceed.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least a sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The bidder with the lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine its responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall only be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure

Interested Bidders may obtain further information and inspect the Bidding Documents at the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Secretariat, Mr. Tomas R. Escarez, Asst. Dept. Manager, DMO and/or Ms. Ma. Dolores Fernandez, Division Chief, DMO, 5th F Matimyas Building, 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave., Quezon City, Tel. No. 742-4140 or 711-7433 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be obtained by Interested Bidders upon payment of non-refundable fee, in cash, in the amount of PESOS: Two Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P2,500.00) per lot.

The Bidding Schedule is as follows:

Issuance of Eligibility Requirements and Bidding Documents	November 21 to 29, 2005
Pre-Bidding Conference	November 29, 2005, 1:30 PM
Deadline for Submission of Bids	December 13, 2005, 10:00 AM
Opening of Bids	December 13, 2005 (immediately after Submission)

The venue for the Pre-bidding Conference and Submission and Opening of Bids shall be at the NFA HRMD Training Room, 7th Floor Matimyas Bldg., 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave., Quezon City.

All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of Cash, Manager's Check or Cashier's Check, in the amount equivalent to five percent (5%) of the Approved Budget Contract. Late Bids will not be accepted.

It is required that prospective bidders must have a single largest contract – completed within the last five (5) years and similar to the contract to bid – whose value adjusted to current prices must be at least fifty percent (50%) of the approved budget for the contract.

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) JESSUP P. NAVARRO
Deputy Administrator for Operations
and Chairman, BAC

(PDI – November 19 & 26, 2005)

To our valued clients:

Please be informed that the following Official Receipts have been reported missing, and are therefore rendered null and void by Pru Life UK:

0545498 / 0545499 / 0545500

Should anyone have information on the missing ORs, please call telephone numbers 884 5541, 884 5542 and 884 5543

Pru Life UK is an indirect subsidiary of Prudential plc, a company incorporated in the United Kingdom ("Prudential plc"). Neither Pru Life UK nor Prudential plc is affiliated with Prudential Financial Inc., a company whose principal place of business is in the United States of America.

Pru Life UK and Prudential plc also have no connection to Prudential Life or Prudential Life Plans, two companies whose principal place of business is the Philippines

We're here to listen. **PRU LIFE U.K.**

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Supply and Delivery of Grains Laboratory Equipment

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY** (NFA) now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for Supply and Delivery of the following Grains Laboratory Equipment (Goods for Short)

LOT No.	EQUIPMENT	QUANTITY	APPROVED BUDGET
1	Laboratory Mill	10 units	P 3,407,000.00
2	Laboratory Huller	9 units	2,340,000.00
3	Top Loading Balance (2,100 g)	29 units	2,188,000.00
	Top Loading Balance (610 g)	14 units	
	Analytical Balance	9 units	
4	Laboratory Air Oven (Digital)	5 units	285,000.00
5	Laboratory Grinder	4 units	400,000.00

Delivery of the Goods is required within 60 days from issuance of Notice to Proceed.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The bidder with the lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine its responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall only be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure

Interested Bidders may obtain further information and inspect the Bidding Documents at the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Secretariat, Mr. Tomas R. Escarez, Asst. Dept. Manager, DMO and/or Ms. Ma. Dolores Fernandez, Division Chief, DMO, 5th F Matimyas Building, 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave., Quezon City, Tel. No. 742-4140 or 711-7433, from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be obtained by interested Bidders upon payment of a nonrefundable fee, in cash, in the amount of PESOS: Two Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P2,500.00) per lot.

The Bidding Schedule is as follows:

Issuance of Eligibility Requirements and Bidding Documents	November 21 to 29, 2005
Pre-Bidding Conference	November 29, 2005, 9:00 AM
Deadline for the Submission of Bids	December 12, 2005, 10:00 AM
Opening of Bids	December 12, 2005 (immediately after Submission

The venue for the Pre-bidding Conference and Submission and Opening of Bids shall be at the NFA HRMD Training Room, 7th Floor Matimyas Bldg., 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave. Quezon City.

All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of Cash, Manager's Check or Cashier's Check, in the amount equivalent to five percent (5%) of the Approved Budget Contract. Late Bids will not be accepted.

It is required that prospective bidders must have a single largest contract - completed within the last five (5) years and similar to the contract to bid – whose value adjusted to current prices must be at least fifty percent (50%) of the approved budget for the contract

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders

(Sgd.) JESSUP P. NAVARRO
Deputy Administrator for Operations
and Chairman, BAC

(PDI-Nov. 19 & 26, 2005)

PerfectLogistics Phils., Inc.
Manila/Rizal area Marcos hi-way Cainta Rizal beside San Benido Sch)
Subic 54 c Innovative St. Industrial Park, SBMA

BIGGEST SALE EVER!!!

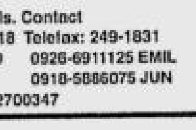
- *"Special Arrangement"* for OFWs, SEAMANS, PILOTS, BALIK BAYAN.

DITO KA NA SA SIGURADO, MURA NA
MAY WARRANTY PA!!!

Prices are too low to print.
Many units to choose from

- Mits. DELICA
- Nissan Caravan
- Estima LUCIDA, Emina
- PAJERO 2.8 / 2.5, SpaceGear 2.8 / 2.5
- TOYOTA Land Cruiser,
- Nissan SERENA
- Isuzu BIGHORN
- FORD Freda, MAZDA Frendee
- MITS RVR
- TOYOTA GRANVIA / REGULUS
- AND MANY MANY MORE

TRUCKS
ELF
FORWARD (Cargo, Wing Van)
10 Wheeler TRUCKS



- FINANCING Available
- 1yr Warranty in Conversion
- 1 mo. Warranty in Engine & Transmission

NO Hidden Cost
In Good Running Condition

For more info, pls. Contact
Tel. Nos. (MANILA) 249-1818 Telefax: 249-1831
Mobile nos.: 0917-8579153 FRED 0926-6911125 EMIL
0916-2069813 REY 0918-5886075 JUN
SUBIC : (047) 252-58-99 - 0917-2700347

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Region V, Legazpi City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID FOR GRAINS HANDLING SERVICES & OTHER RELATED WAREHOUSE HANDLING SERVICES FOR NFA REGION V

The National Food Authority, Region V, Legazpi City invites qualified grains cargo handling service contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the provision of handling and other related warehouse handling services in the different NFA uitilized warehouses in Region V for the calendar year 2006 based on the following budget for the contract.

LOT	PROVINCE	AREA/LOCATION OF NFA WHSES.	EST. VOLUME TO BE HANDLED (bgs)	BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT (Php)
Lot 1	Albay	Ligao City	368,473	921,182.50
		Libon	368,282	920,705.00
Lot 2	Cam. Norte	Lag-on, Daet	711,241	1,564,730.20
Lot 3	Catanduanes	Virac & Pandan	347,200	868,000.00
Lot 4	Masbate	Masbate City	472,452	1,015,771.80
Lot 5	Sorsogon	Cabid-an, Sorsogon City	588,757	1,295,265.40
		Bulan, Irosin & Gubat	75,000	165,000.00
Lot 6	Cam. Sur	Palestina, Pili	1,346,793	3,097,623.90
		Partido	263,627	606,342.10
		Iriga City	229,817	528,579.10
		Balintawak, Naga City	318,803	733,246.90
		Libmanan	162,320	373,336.00

The Schedule of bidding activities are as follows:

ACTIVITY	DATE	TIME
1. Issuance of eligibility requirements & Bidding documents	Nov. 25 – Dec. 07, 2005	8:00 AM – 5:00 PM
2. Pre Bid conference	Dec. 07, 2005 (Lots 1-6)	9:00 AM
3. Deadline for the submission of Eligibility Requirements & Bid Tender Forms	Dec. 20, 2005	
	Lot 1	9:00 AM
	Lot 2	10:00 AM
	Lot 3	11:00 AM
	Lot 4	2:00 PM
	Lot 5	3:00 PM
	Lot 6	4:00 PM
4. Opening of Eligibility requirements & Bid Tender Forms	Dec. 20, 2005 (immediately after submission)	

The venue for the pre-bidding conference and submission and opening of bids shall be at the Conference Room, NFA Regional Office, Pier Site, Legazpi City.

Funding Source will be the Corporate Operating Budget.

The application forms, eligibility requirements and other bid documents may be obtained from RBAC Secretariat after payment of a non-transferable / non-refundable bidding fee in the amount of P2,000.00.

Other inquiries may be addressed to the RBAC Secretariat, NFA Region V, Legazpi City with telephone numbers (052) 480-7399 / 480-7015 / 480-7085 / 820-0018 and fax number (052) 480-7900.

It is required that the prospective bidders must have a single largest contract completed within the last five (5) years and similar to the contract to be bid whose value adjusted to current prices must be at least fifty (50%) percent of the ABC.

THE NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS THEREOF, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITIES OR DEFECTS FOUND THEREIN, OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS OR TO AWARD TO ANY CONTRACTOR WHOSE BID IS CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE NFA OR TO THE GOVERNMENT.

(Sgd.) JOSE B. GUEVARRA
RBAC Chairman

(PDI – November 26 & December 2, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON AUDIT
Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City, Philippines

Procurement of
Two Thousand (2000) Units Notebook Computer
Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

1. The Commission on Audit, intends to apply the sum of One Hundred Thirty-Six Million Four Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php 136,400,000.00) being the Approved Budget of the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Procurement of Two Thousand (2000) Units Notebook Computers. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. Interested Bidders may obtain a complete set of Bidding Documents starting November 29, 2005 upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Thirteen Thousand (Php 13,000.00) pesos from Director Isabel D. Agito, c/o BAC Secretariat, Procurement Division, COA, Central Office, Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City.
3. The Commission on Audit will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties at 1:30 P.M., December 6, 2005 at the BAC Office, Room 102, Ground Floor Former SAADO Bldg., COA Complex, Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City.
4. Deadline for submission of Bids shall be on December 19, 2005, 1:30 P.M. at the BAC Office. Immediately after the deadline, bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
5. The Commission on Audit reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) ARCADIO B. CUENCO, JR.
Assistant Commissioner
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - November 26, 2005)

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CAR LOAN

1.5% w/o taking Car 7228942-43

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3732081/82

2% w/o taking car 7880183-84

2% w/o taking car 7723810/12

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

WANTED TO BUY

WE BUY AT HIGH PRICE
ROLEX
5646593 5897041
5633742 0917-8473744

BUYING ROLEX
Other WATCHES, BEST PRICE
0917-8884040 • 7269687
7220433 • 4123543

BILLIARDS

15T UP NEW COMPL IMPTD 7767507

Sale/Rental/Servce 8014494
0464771344 09179870097

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

WANTED TO BUY

A NAME YOU CAN TRUST!
MANILA WATCH EXCHANGE
BUY • SELL • PAWN
ROLEX+OTHERS
& OTHER SWISS WATCHES
DIAMONDS / JEWELRY
HI-APPRAISAL/FAST CASH
REPAIR/POLISH ANY WATCH
T#804-0484 • 834-2886

"PROFESSIONAL & CREDIBLE"
WE BUY USED
SWISS WATCHES
SECONDO 2/F GLORIETTA 1 (8940282
SWISS WATCH LOANS
LOW 5% INTEREST
AGENCIA DE MAKATI 889-7956

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

YAMAHA GRAND & UPRIGHT
ELITE PIANO CENTER
Almost New:TERMS-7213124

PETS

DOG TRAINER 0919-7219020

PEDIGREED WHIPPET
CALL (0927) 373-5360

MISCELLANEOUS

7Units BARBER'S CHAIR Layug with complete accesrs 9123651 09175385686 Vic

TENTS all kinds 9281486

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

HIRING! CALL CENTER AGENTS
FAX -RESUME AT 879-8274

HOME EXPERT
YAYA/HMAIDS/F.DRIVER
773-8998•0918-7095816•

Part/Full Time English Teachers Prof w/ Call Ctr & Korean Language Ctr exp P100-150/hr 4330961

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

earnextranow.com code: atb2004 8531008 09178901851

Experienced Female Marketing Director 0917-8403228

Garments, P20 Up 412-8673

RETIRE 2YRS 09189051567

RTW CONSIGN 0917-8830002

"PART-TIME BUSINESS" Work thru phone Earn up to P20k/mo 376-2644 & 42

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF LOSS

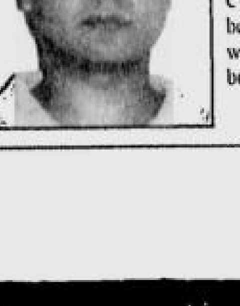
Notice is hereby given that the Allied Bank CTD No. 0327-004155 with Cert. No. 563329 issued to GLORIA DE VEGA and ENRIQUE DE VEGA was reported lost as per Affidavit of Loss Doc. No. 247, Page No. 51, Book No. I-G, Series of 2005 under Notary Public Jimmy D Lacobal of Mandaluyong City. If no contest received, new certificate will be issued.
(PDI-Nov. 26, 2005)

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Yukio Hamano has been extrajudicially settled by his only heir, Tadashi Hamano before Notary Public of Paranaque City., Tomas S. Macasaot, Sr., as per Doc#67, Page#14, Book#I; Series of 2005.
(PDI - Nov. 26, Dec. 3 &10, 2005)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



Notice is hereby given that **Mr. Philip Mateo (Alias "Philip")** with his picture herein and with his last known address at San Fernando, Victoria, Tarlac has a standing Warrant of Arrest issued by Hon. Judge Sarah Alma M. Lim, Presiding Judge, Metropolitan Trial Court of Manila, Branch 15 in connection with Criminal Case No.417753-CR for theft. He ceased to be connected with the company and any dealings with him for and in behalf of the company will not be recognized.

TRANSORIENT MAINTENANCE SERVICE INC.

OBITUARIES

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION
Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8978425 (Direct) ☎ 8978808 (Trunk) Fax 8978425
G/F ATRIUM BLDG., MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY
☎ 912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6372008 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 5280183 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

THE HERITAGE PARK
FORT BONIFACIO
Funeral Home and Crematory
845-2334 to 38; 845-2440

In Loving Remembrance of
Our Dearly Beloved

Margarita Lacson-Gemperle

(✝ *November 27, 1996*)
especially on her 9th Death Anniversary

Holy Mass will be offered tomorrow, Sunday, November 27, 2005 in the following churches:

St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Church .... 7:00 AM, 12:00 NN & 6:00 PM
Magallanes Village, Makati City
Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park .... 12:00 NN & 4:30 PM
St. John Bosco Parish Church .... 7:30 AM, 8:45 AM, 10:00 AM & 12:30 NN
Pasay Road, Makati City
Sto. Niño de Paz Chapel,
Greenbelt, Makati City .... 9:00AM, 12:00 NN & 4:30 PM
St. James Parish Church, ... 8:00 AM, 10:30 AM, 4:30 PM, 6:00 PM & 7:30 PM
Ayala Alabang
St. Jerome & St. Susana Parish, ... 6:30 AM, 8:30 AM, 11:00 AM, 5:00 PM, 6:00 PM & 7:00 PM
Ayala Alabang
St. Benedict Church, *Alabang Hills* .... 7:45 AM, 11:00 AM & 6:30 PM
Presentation of the Child Jesus Parish .... 6:00 AM, 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM, 10:30 AM, 11:15 AM, 4:00 PM, 5:00 PM 6:30 PM & 8:00 PM
BF Homes, Parañaque City
St. Joseph (Bamboo Organ) Church, *Las Piñas* .... 6:00 AM
St. Andrew Parish, *La Huerta, Parañaque* .... 6:30 PM
Shrine of Jesus the Way, the Truth and the Life, ... 6:00 AM & 5:30 PM
Pope John Paul II Youth Center
Our Lady of Sorrows Church, *FB Harrison, Pasay* .... 6:00 AM
Nuestra Señora de Guia Church, *Ermita, Manila* .... 10:00 AM
Our Lady of Remedies, *Malate Church* .... 6:00 PM (Sat. Nov. 26)

We, her family, sincerely thank our relatives, friends and readers for kindly remembering her in prayer.

"I have competed well; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith"
2 Timothy 4:7

ABELARDO "JUNIE" PALANCA BANTUG

of Bacolod City

September 16, 1940 – November 19, 2005

Peacefully returned to our Heavenly Father at the age of 65

His loving wife **Suzette Ereñeta**; children **Reeda, Jun-B & Maricel, Michael & Genie, Analin & Carmeli**; grandchildren **Angelica, Quad, Myza** and **Natasha**.

His bereaved mother **Remedios**; sisters **Betty Benitez** (†), **Armita Rufino, Victoria Hoffarth** and **Cynthia Regino**; brother **Reynaldo** and their spouses; nephews & nieces, relatives & friends request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Rolling Hills Memorial Chapel, Mandalagan, Bacolod City.

Interment will be on Sunday, November 27, 2005 at the Bacolod Memorial Park after the 9:30 a.m. Mass at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, Mandalagan, Bacolod City.

RITA MANLAPIT ZALVIDEA

*Peacefully joined our Lord and her husband **NARCISO**, on November 25, 2005 at the age of 84.*

Her loving children **OSCAR** and **JAIME & JOSEFINA**; her grandchildren **NOEL, JAMES** and **CAMILLE** and other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Our Lady of Lourdes Church Retiro cor. Kanlaon Sts., Quezon City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, November 30, 2005 at the North Cemetery, Manila after the 8:00 AM Holy Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes Church.

BENJAMIN TORRALBA OBSEQUIO, M.D.

of Jolo, Sulu and Zamboanga City
June 10, 1926 – November 24, 2005

U.P. Medicine 1953 – Bud Dano Lodge #102 and Samboangan Lodge #810
Aloha Shriner

His siblings **Orlando**(✝) and **Raquel**(✝), **Ludovico**(✝) and **Oty**, **Eva**(✝) **Pat** and **Saming**, **Jaime** and **Mila**, and **Manoling** and **Faring**.

His nephews, nieces, grandchildren, relatives, and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Rolling Hills Chapels, Mandalagan, Bacolod City. Tel. No. 034-4339795.

Interment will be on Monday, November 28, 2005 at the Sacred Heart Memorial Park, Sum-ag, Bacolod City.

"He is home at last with his Heavenly Father"

The Chairman and the Board of Directors of
UNITED DOCTORS MEDICAL CENTER (UDMC)
and
SOUTHEAST ASIAN COLLEGE INC. (SACI)
announce with great sadness
the death of their
Vice Chairman

RAMON "SONNY" SIYTANGCO, JR.

on Friday, November 25, 2005

His remains will be at the Mount Carmel Mortuary Chapel, Doña Juana Rodriguez Ave., cor. 4th St., Broadway, New Manila, Quezon City, where evening masses will be offered at 8:00 p.m. until Wednesday morning, November 30.

We condole with his wife **Deedee**; children **Sandee & Andrew Masigan, Junie & Cora** (**Barte**), **David & AJ**, and his grandchildren **Amanda Julia Masigan** and **Ramon III**, and his sisters and brothers – **Ginny, Popoy, Deena, Joseph, Bong, Larry** and **Anton**.

"I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."
John 14:6

On his Tenth Anniversary
We dearly and lovingly remember

STEFANO F. DE CAROLIS

November 26, 1995

Linda, Federica, Cristiano Mario, Lorenzo, and Benedetta

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

METRO MANILA
• LAS PIÑAS
FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
187 Real St., Zapote Alabang, Las Piñas Tels 873-0507; 873-0024

• MAKATI
DON BOSCO CHAPELS
Pasay Road Makati City Tel 894-5032 to 34
FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
885 J.P. Rizal St., Poblacion, Makati City Tels 890-3556, 890-8191
LOYOLA MEMORIAL CHAPELS
EDSA cor. Bernardino St. Guadalupe Makati City Tels 895-1011 to 19
MALABED FUNERAL SERVICE
3-A Colorado St. Guadalupe Viejo Makati City Tel 890-83-18
SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO PARISH
Forbes Park Makati City Tel Nos 843-6838/30 Fax No 843-9223
ST ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIGOURI PARISH
Magallanes Village, Makati City Tels 852-8228, 852-7284

• MALABON
FLORESCO FUNERAL HOME
210 Gen Luna St., Concepcion Malabon Metro Manila, Tels 2812863; 2813034, 2810532

• MANDALUYONG
SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE PARISH
East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City, Telefax 724-4130, 725-2014

• MANILA
DULCE MEMORIAL SERVICES
Jose Abad Santos Ave cor Dinalupihan St Maharlika Manila Tels 712-5102, 741-5125, 741-5133, Fax No. 711-3064
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
1601 G M Roxas Ave cor T Mapua Manila Tels 711 0031 to 35 732-4705, 732-2827
POPULAR MEMORIAL CHAPELS, INC.
2141 Rizal Ave Sta Cruz Manila Tel Nos 254-0867, 254-0039
ST MARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL
16-15 G Tuazon cor Loreto St Sampaloc Manila Tels 749-3079 781-1772
UNIVERSAL FUNERAL SERVICE & MEMORIAL CHAPELS
2028 Rizal Ave Sta Cruz Manila Tels 493 4458, 493-4540
WELLINGTON FUNERAL SERVICES
1611 Gen Luna St. Paco, Manila, Tel 302-5447

• MARIKINA
ERIC SANTIAGO MEMORIAL CHAPELS
26 Bayanbayan Ave Concepcion I Marikina City Tels 942-6044, 475-1177
F. SANTIAGO MEMORIAL HOMES
9 V. Gomez & 13 V Gomez St San Roque Marikina City Tels 646-1725 or 646-1730
LOYOLA MEMORIAL PARK CHAPELS & CREMATORY SERVICES
Loyola Memorial Park, A. Bonifacio Avenue Tañong Marikina City Tels 941 3198 to 99, 941-3676, Telefax 941-3577
PAKET SANTIAGO MEMORIAL HOMES
13 V Gomez St San Roque Marikina City, Tels 646-1728, 646-1730

• PARAÑAQUE
HOLY TRINITY MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat Rd Sucat Parañaque City Tels 825 1298, 826-1091, Telefax 826-1314
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, SUCAT, INC
Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat Parañaque Tels 820-1602 825-6947; 829-0039
LINCOLN MEMORIAL SERVICES, INC
Ground Floor, JEMP Bldg J Cabanban cor Mercurio Sts Phase I BF Commercial Center, Parañaque, Metro Manila
RIZAL FUNERAL HOMES
8107 Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque City, Tels 826-1376; 826-0692; (0916) 712-1270

• PASAY
RIZAL FUNERAL HOMES
438 Camarines St Pasay City Tels 831-1204
VERONICA MEMORIAL HOMES
Official NBI Morgue 517-A Arnaiz St., Pasay City Tels 831-3797; 844-7846, 843-1001; 845-4838

• PASIG
ARLINGTON EAST THE GARDEN CHAPELS
C. Raymundo St. cor. Mercedes Ave San Miguel Ave Pasig City Tels 747-8500, 747-8600, Telefax 641-1700
FUNERARIA ANGEL QUIOGUE
No 87 Pasig Boulevard Extension Pasig City Tels 641-7000 641-1735

• QUEZON CITY
ARLINGTON MEMORIAL CHAPEL
12 G Araneta Avenue Quezon City Tels 715 1025 715-1031, 715-1027
LA FUNERARIA LAWRENCE BAQUIRAN
#23 Palo St., Project 2, Quezon City. Tel 434-3268
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
143 G. Araneta Ave. cor Kaliraya St Quezon City Tels 740 3890 to 11, 712-3001; 743-0502 or 05
NACIONAL MEMORIAL HOMES
261 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City Tels 713 5231 to 35. 714-0807, 714-0808
ST. PETER FUNERAL HOMES
206 Quezon Ave., Quezon City, Tels 372-5081; 410-926/87

• TAGUIG-PATEROS
FUNERARIA ANGEL QUIOGUE
M. Almeda St Pateros Metro Manila Tels 642-3010, 630-3002
GARDEN OF MEMORIES MEMORIAL PARK
Calzadang Bago, Pateros Metro Manila Tels 642-6181 to 82
HERITAGE PARK
Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila, Tels (DL) 845-2341 to 42. (TL) 845-2334 to 38 loc 110/112

PROVINCIAL
• ALBAY
LIGÑON HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS, INC
Bogtong Road, Legaspi City, Tels (052) 820-0188 0917-2074152

• BACOLOD
ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Ground Flr. Rolling Hills Chapel, 27th-Lacson St Mandalagan, Bacolod City, Tel. 433-7132

• BAGUIO
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
79 Naguilian Rd., Baguio City, Tel (074) 443-3337; (074) 442-3117

• BATAAN
SANTUARIO GARDEN & CHAPELS
Talisay Road Balanga City Bataan, Tels (047) 2370643 • 7011766

• BULACAN
FUNERARIA TUASON
Poblacion, San Miguel, Bulacan 3011, Tels (044) 764-0201; 678-0300, (0917) 805-0003

• CAVITE
FUNERARIA SAMSON
145 Bayan Luma Imus Cavite Tels (046) 471-3376; 471-2875
LA FUNERARIA SAPINOSO
G. Topacio St., Imus, Cavite, Tels (046) 471-3380, (046) 471-4417; (046) 571-1978

• CEBU
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC
Nivel Hills Lahug Cebu City Tels 231-0721 231-3182
CEBU ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC
Cebu Branch A.S. Fortuna Street, Banilad, Mandaue City, Cebu. Tels 346-2543, 346-2601

• DAVAO
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC
Camus Ext. cor J. Abad Santos Davao City, Tels (082) 227-1251, 227-1258

• ILOCOS
LA FUNERARIA LAWRENCE BAQUIRAN
#27 Crisologo St., Vigan, Ilocos Sur Tel 722-2730, Cell (0917) 5600136; (0917) 5680145

• LAGUNA
SAN RAMON FUNERAL HOMES
2020 Brgy Dita, Sta. Rosa, Laguna Tels (049) 837-5652 531-4147, Fax (049) 531-1049
ZUASOLA FUNERAL HOMES
Brgy Del Remedio, San Pablo City, Laguna, Tels (049) 562 1608 800-2314 Cel No. (0917) 8016903

• PAMPANGA
FUNERARIA PANGILINAN
Barrio Enfiero cor P Burgos St., Lourdes Sur Angeles City, Tels (045) 888-2859 (045) 322-5247

• RIZAL
OUR LADY OF PEACE MEMORIAL PARK CHAPEL & SERVICES, INC.
No 6 Caingin St., Antipolo City 1870
Tel. No 697-0792 697-0120 650 7420 Fax 697-2784
F. SANTIAGO MEMORIAL HOMES
Guitnang Bayan San Mateo Rizal Tels 948 6049 942-4400
HOLY GARDENS MEMORIAL PARK
Third Level, Unishoppe Complex Quezon Ave Angono, Rizal
Tels 651 1711 651 0737
MARIAN MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Marcos Hiway Antipolo Rizal Tels 6-15-1865

• ZAMBALES
DALLUAY MEMORIAL SERVICES
#42 upper Kalalake Olongapo City
Tels (047) 222-3605 (047) 611 1066 (047) 222 4512 (047) 224-2014
OLONGAPO MEMORIAL PARK
Del Rosario St., Tabacuhan Sta Rita Olongapo, Tel No (047) 223-1692

Rest in Eternity

VITALIANA "*Betty*" KALUGDAN vda. de LEGASPI

of Cavite City

Has peacefully joined her husband,
the late National Artist ***CESAR F. LEGASPI,***
in the final rest of the Lord last Sunday, 20 November 2005
at her residence in BF Homes, Parañaque.

Her Children and In-laws: Dennis and Evelyn Legaspi, Rebecca K. Legaspi, Celeste and Dominador *Nonoy* Gallardo, Alicia and Facundo *Ding* Roco, and, Diana and Roy Melin
Her Grandchildren: *The Legaspis* – Eileen and Claro Chitz Ramirez, Peter Dennis *PD* and Maria Rosario *Lot* Legaspi, Janice and Eric Zamuco; *The Gallardos* – Miguel Lorenzo, Maria Adelaida, Clara Vitaliana. *The Rocos* – Margarita, Patricia and Sebastian Bas Usison, Franco Facundo. *The Melins* – Russell Alexander, Sonja Rebekah, Jasmine Monique
Her Great Grandchildren: Sofia Isabel A. Legaspi, Emilio Rafael A. Legaspi, and Katrin Alicia R. Usison

Invite friends and relatives to her memorial rites to be held at Christ Commission Fellowship Bldg., Prime St. (behind Citibank Alabang), Madrigal Business Park, Alabang, Muntinlupa, as follows: **Wake – from 7-11 p.m. Sunday, 27 November 2005.**
Memorial Service – 6 p.m., Monday, 28 November 2005. Her remains will be interred at 9 a.m., Tuesday on 29 November 2005 at Manila Memorial Park, Sucat Road, Parañaque City.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring...
INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate;
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS • DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS • FREE OBIT DESIGN

ISIDRO GONZALES HEMEDES, SR.

peacefully joined his Creator and wife, Natalia N. Lobrilla,
on November 24, 2005 at the age of 80,

His loving wife, Erlinda;
sons & daughters-in-law, Gregorio & Susana, Leopoldo, Sr. & Gliceria, Isidro, Jr. & Mariel, Isagani & Ma. Royann, Irmino & Gemma, Israel & Ma. Hazel, Inorwin & Elisa;

daughter & son-in-law, Narissa & John Cidric; and daughter Irene;

grandchildren, Niño and Jeffrey; Leslie Rose, Lester Paul and Leopoldo, Jr. & Mary Anne Faith; Ismael, Marielisse and Rowell; Reniello Ivan; Ma. Clarisse, Mary Rose and Agustin Joseph; Elisar and Thalia Louise; Edeo Jeremy, Camille and Christine Monique; John Clarence;

great granddaughters, Marinela Breanne and Ma. Luiza Andrea; and other relatives request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

The funeral mass will be held on Tuesday, November 29, 2005, 9:00 a.m. at the St. Polycarp Parish Church. Interment will follow after the Holy Mass.

"For God
so loved the world, that He
gave His only begotten Son,
that whoever believes in Him
shall not perish but have
everlasting life."
John 3:16

"I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."
John 14:6

CLASSIFIEDS

National Power Corporation

November 25, 2005

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
Supply and Delivery of Vehicles

1. The **NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION** (NPC), now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the above supply.
2. It intends to apply the sum as shown below being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC), Internal Cash Generation (IGC).

Schedule	Description / Specification	Quantity	Approved Budget for the Contract (Pesos
I	4 x 4 Pick-Up, four-wheel pick-up type vehicle, with displacement not exceeding 3000cc, diesel	8 units	10,320,000.00
II	4 x 2 Pick-Up, four-wheel pick-up type vehicle, with displacement not exceeding 3000cc, diesel	8 units	7,584,000.00
III	Passenger Van 4 x 2, four-wheel Van type vehicle, with displacement not exceeding 3000cc diesel.	7 units	7,546,000.00
IV	Asian Utility Vehicle, Wagon type 4 x 2, four-wheel Van type vehicle, with displacement not exceeding 3000cc diesel	30 units	27,000,000.00
V	Light Truck, six-wheel vehicle, with displacement not exceeding 7000cc diesel	5 units	7,500,000.00
VI	Passenger Bus, six-wheel vehicle, not exceeding 60 seating cap. Displacement & fuel use are to be provided later	2 units	14,000,000.00
		TOTAL	73,950,000.00

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the IRR-Part A of RA 9184. Only bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened.
4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased from BCSD upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P20,000.00, either in cash or manager's check. The bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
5. Pre-Bid conference shall be on December 6, 2005, Solarium Function Hall, NPC, Diliman, Quezon City.
6. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered at designated venue on the bidding dates. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form and amount stated in the Tender Document. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
7. NPC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidders. Any inquiry regarding the above invitation shall be addressed to the undersigned.
8. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from Bids and Contracts Services Department (BCSD) NPC Building, Diliman, Quezon City at Tel. No. 922-1622 or visit NPC (www.napocor.gov.ph) website.

(Sgd.) SILVANO C. ZANORIA
Senior Vice President
& Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – Nov. 26 & Dec. 3, 2005)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY
BOARD OF INVESTMENTS

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that International Academy of Film and Television, Inc. is applying for registration with the Board of Investments (BOI) as New ICT Support Services in the Field of Learning Institution Offering the Following Courses: 2D Animation; 3D Animation; Digital Editing; Web Designing; Adobe Photoshop CS; Compositing with After Effects 1 - Adobe 6.0; and Audio Production 1, 2 and 3 on a Non-Pioneer Status with capacity of Not applicable, being a service activity and with project/plant site located at Saac II Road, Barangay Mactan, Lapu-lapu City.

Any person with valid objection/s on the above-mentioned project may file his/her objection in writing, under oath, with the BOI within three (3) days from the date of this publication.

(Sgd.) RUDY B. CAÑA
Director
Project Evaluation and
Registration Department

Industry & Investment Building,
385 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City, Philippines
Tel.: (632) 897-6682 Fax No.: (632) 895-3521
(PG) (632) 895-3981 (IG) (632) 895-3978
(TSG) (632) 890-3051 (AD)
E-mail QSAC@boi.gov.ph Homepage: http://www.boi.gov.ph
Cable address: INVESTBOARD P.O. Box 1872 Makati

(PDI - Nov. 26, 2005)

QC HS Batch '77 Xmas Party

THE QUEZON City High School Batch '77 will hold its Christmas Party on December 3, 6:00 p.m. at Alumni Center, Quezon City High School, Scout Ybardolaza, Quezon City. For details, pls contact Mely Nueva-Francia at 658-29-45.

PAMS' 11TH Academy meeting and 2005 annual confab

THE PHILIPPINE ACADEMY OF Medical Specialists (PAMS) will hold its 11th Academy Meeting and 2005 Annual Convention on Nov. 28-29 at the Crowne Plaza Galleria Manila, Ortigas Center, Quezon City. With its theme, "PAMS: Making a Difference," the convention will have Rep. Eduardo C. Firmalo as keynote speaker, and will have the largest convergence of medical specialists from government and private hospitals belonging to more than 20 chapters from all the country who will be treated to plenary and interactive lectures among which is pharmacovigilance, as well as scientific sessions offered by the different specialties and sub-specialties, according to Dr. Rene Catan, over-all convention chairperson, who added that pre-convention sports activities like golf, badminton, and bowling have been lined up on Nov. 27. Dr. Miguel Ocampo, PAMS national president said that there will be conferment on PAMS diplomates and fellows with Dr. Jaime Z. Galvez Tan, former acting Health secretary and University of the Philippines College of Public Health professor as Conferment Speaker. Inquiries can be made through the PAMS National Secretariat (Philippine Medical Association Compound, North Avenue, Quezon City) or at Tels. 9286836, 0919-7171189/0915-5621110.

Training on HACCP plan development set

THE FOOD DEVELOPMENT CENTER (FDC) of the National Food Authority (NFA) will conduct a seminar workshop on "Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) Plan Development and Implementation" on Dec. 13-15, at the FDC Compound in Tagig City. Dr. Manuel M. Garcia, a visiting consultant from Canada will be the principal lecturer during the training. The course fee is P6,700.00 per person, inclusive of training manual, lunches, snacks and a shuttle bus service from Ayala Center, Makati City to FDC and back. Interested parties are encouraged to make reservations. For further inquiries, please contact Ms. Amelia S. Bautista, Food Development Center, National Food Authority, FTI Complex, Taguig City at tel. nos. 838-4014; 838-4561; 838-4478 and fax nos. 838-4017 and 838-4692.

People, Events & Products

E-mail: pr_pep@inquirer.com.pl
aespinosa@inquirer.com.pl

Editor Aries Espinosa

Welcome to the iG-Cash revolution: G-Cash meets iGEN

GLOBE TELECOMS TIES UP WITH one of the fastest-growing direct sales marketing companies in the world, iGEN-Portal International Corp (Ipic), to include iGEN-Portal's commission disbursement system to its G-Cash mobile commerce solutions. This partnership between two visionary companies created iG-Cash, which makes immediate commission payout possible for Filipino distributors. With the iG-Cash revolution, distributors can now receive their commissions conveniently anytime, anywhere via text messaging.

iGEN-Portal's R3BS (Real Time Redundant Revolutionary Business System), the brain behind immediate or real-time payout system, made iG-Cash possible through its technology in network marketing. This technology computes real-time commissions, monitors product points and allows real-time commission disbursements - a system pioneered by iGEN-Portal's president Paulo N. Legaspi whose innovative and ingenious efforts to improve services for its members remain a commitment.

iGEN offers a wide range of products and services, each with its own point values. As soon as a sale has been made, its point value code is sent to the R3BS via SMS which is automatically processed by the system and added to the distributor's outstanding point balance. Accumulated points are converted into either product or cash rewards. A distributor earns points not only through his sales but also on the points earned by his entire sales group. This point system marketing, which converts expenses into income, is another pioneer concept adapted by iGEN-Portal.

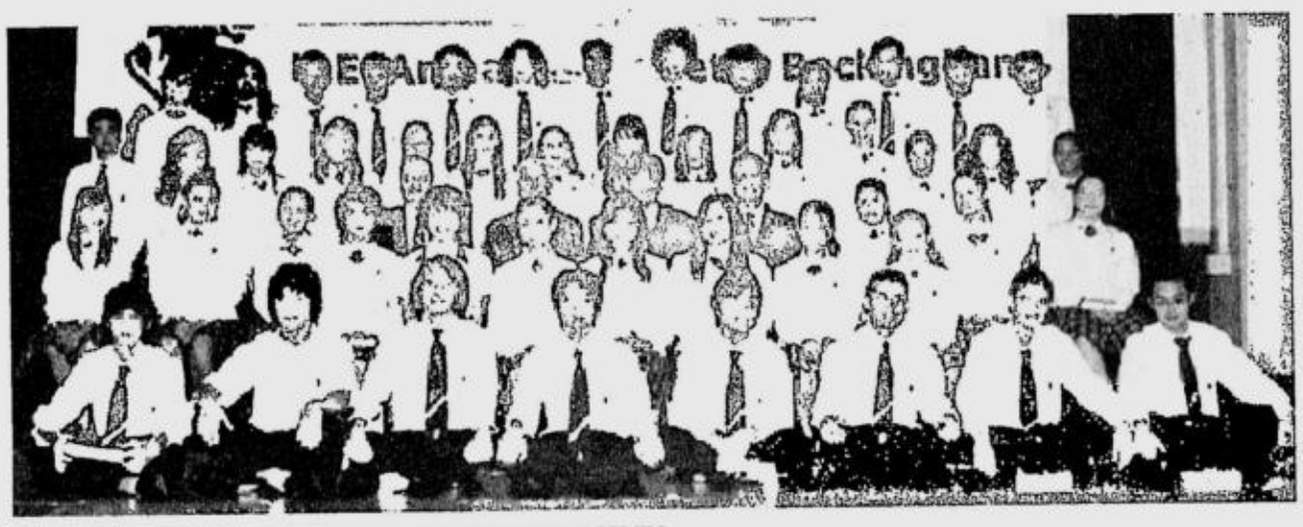
iG-Cash can also be converted to cash in any authorized cash-out outlets. Other G-Cash services include: bills payment, delivery services payment, domestic money transfer and international remittance. For more G-Cash details, please log on to www.g-cash.com.ph.

The advanced network marketing and computer system technology in iG-Cash, empowering consumers and members, is a response to Filipinos' need to earn and get instant commissions. This in turn provides for the basic necessities of modern everyday living. With iGEN and Globe's breakthrough partnership, sales efforts and consumption are instantly translated to fast cash. Anyone and everyone can be part of this revolution. For questions and details, visit the iGEN office located at Ground Floor, Centerpoint Bldg., Doña Julia Vargas cor. Garnet Rd., Ortigas Center Pasig City or logon to www.igenportal.com.ph.

PRESENT in the MOA signing are (from left): Fransisco Pinon, iGEN Portal CFO and Paulo Legaspi, iGEN president with Jose Roberto Mendoza, Gx-change Inc and head of Globe Telecoms mobile commerce and Globe business development head Marly Baldia.

COSMETIQUE ASIA YEAR 4

Cosmetique Asia, the makers of Silka papaya product line recently feted its distributors and sales force nationwide during the company's fourth year anniversary. Rogel Mabunga (2nd from right) receives his plaque as Best Distributor Sales Manager of the year from Alex Co, president of Cosmetique Asia. With them are (from left) Alex Janssen Co, chief operating officer, Juanita Co, Silka executive vice president and Ding Aquino, Silka vice president for marketing.



THE BRITISH SCHOOL MANILA GCSE RESULTS

The British School Manila offers General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) examinations to its students in year 11. GCSE is the qualification for all pupils at age sixteen. It is a two year course with terminal exams in the May/June of year eleven. It is a direct stepping stone to pre-university courses such as IB or A level. This year, the results of GCSE examination were once again magnificent. In comparison with the UK schools which use the percentage of pupils with 5 of more passes at grades A-C, The British School Manila got the overall rating of 92 percent as compared to the UK top 400 state schools who got 87.3 percent for this year. The majority of the students have continued on into the International Baccalaureate Diploma programme. H.E. Ambassador Peter Beckingham presented the GCSE certificates Oct. 28 to year 12 students who achieved such fantastic results.

When money is not enough to buy good education, there is Bankard

EXPERIENCE IS THE BEST TEACHER AND AS credit card industry pioneer Bankard has learned from its long years of experience in the business, the best benefits are those that fulfill its loyal cardholders' deepest aspirations.

Providing one's children with good education that will assure them of a good future is an aspiration most parents carry deep within their hearts. Bankard understands this and strives to make this dream a reality for its cardholders through its Children Have a Right to Good Education or Charge Program.

Focused mainly on making school enrollment easy on the pocket, Bankard's Charge Program provides a means through which its cardholders can pay for their children's tuition, books, uniform and other school-related expenses. All they have to do is call either Bankard Customer Service at 888-1-888 (for holders of Bankard MasterCard, Bankard Visa, or Bankard JCB) or dial the myDream JCB Customer Hotline at 888-1818 from now until Nov. 30. They simply inform the customer service representative of their desire to avail themselves of the benefits of the program and state the total amount they need. If the amount they need is within their allowable credit limit, they will then be asked to choose their preferred installment term. A check in the principal cardholder's name will then be issued and delivered directly to his billing address.

To make it easy for the cardholder to pay for the amount he requested, he will be billed at reduced installment rates if he is a Bankard MasterCard, Bankard Visa or Bankard JCB cardholder. These rates go as low as 1.75 percent per month for 3 months, 2 percent per month for 6 months, 2.25 percent per month for 9 months, and 2.5 percent per month for 12 months.

If he is a holder of myDream JCB, he will be billed using myDream JCB's low effective installment rates of 1.5 percent per month for 3 months, 1.75 percent per month for 6 months, and 2 percent per month for 12 months.

Per se, tuition paid via monthly installments is already easy on the cardholder's pocket. With its Charge Program, Bankard goes a step further by applying even lower effective installment rates, thereby making the monthly amortizations very easy indeed for its cardholders.

Bankard's Children Have a Right to Good Education (Charge) Program is another effort by the company to make life as a cardholder infinitely rewarding.

Last Aug. 15, lucky Bankard and myDream JCB cardholders who availed themselves of the benefits of the Bankard Charge Program won exciting prizes in the raffle promo offered by the program. These winners include: Diana J. Polanco, Rhoel C. Lugue, Mary Anne F. Factura, Gemema G. Viajante, Bernardo A. Sanchez, Marcelina P. Simbajon, Lydia V. Ferrer, Rebecca A. Grande, Estrellita F. Cayago, Ma. Luisa B. Aguilar, Caroline D. Ong, Marilou C. Balagtas, Ma. Teresa D. Hernando, Ma. Theresa T. Zuñiga, Roweda G. Virtudazo, Ma. Teresa P. Eduardo, Daisy U. Ongtangco, Socorro L. Inferido, Pelagia D. Joven, and Arturo C. Pelias.

BITS Clips

EQ Diaper's promo winners

EQ DIAPERS CONDUCTED THE FIRST MONTH draw last Nov. 4, for its Text Panalo, New Year Pa-Premyo raffle promo. The list of names drawn that are requested to bring the original documents as submitted via fax for final verification and awarding as winners are as follows: one P 100,000 winner: Kristine Tero of Antipolo City; five P20,000 winners: 1. Juliet Madarang of Davao del Norte, 2. Ricardo Ruan of Quezon City, 3. Rodel Matibag of Cuenca, Batangas, 4. Cherry Chua Yao of Pasig City, 5. Archielito Go of Valenzuela; five P8,000 winners: 1. Wilma Alovera of Quezon City, 2. Allen Alipio of Los Baños Laguna, 3. Virginia Aquino of Muntinlupa City, 4. Teresita Angeles of Quezon City, 5. To Be Confirmed. All non-winning entries are still included in the second monthly draw on Dec 2, (1 winner of 100,000, 5 winners of 20,000 and 5 winners of 8,000 shall be drawn) and the Grand Raffle Draw on Jan 6, 2006 wherein JS Unitrade will be giving away 50,000 each to two winners and 500,000 in cash to one lucky winner. For more details, text EQPROMO to 2955.

Winston's Overdrive on a Silk Road

SOMETHING THRILLING IS ABOUT TO TAKE PLACE AT THE CAFÉ FONTANA of the Grand Boulevard Hotel on Nov. 30. Overdrive and Silk Bands take center stage in an event dubbed Winston's Overdrive on a Silk Road, which takes place at 9 p.m. Tickets are now available at the Grand Boulevard Hotel and will be available at the gates on Nov. 30 or you may try Ticketworld outlets in Harrison and Shangri-La Plaza, selected National Bookstore branches, SM North Edsa, Megamall, Southmall, Greenhills, Gloriette, Greenbelt, Robinson Dept store outlets, Tower records, CCP and Music Museum. Call 891-9999 or 0918-3049655. For tickets online, please log in to www.ticketworld.com.ph.

XXXth Year SJA '75 Reunion

THE 1975 HIGH SCHOOL BATCH OF ST. JAMES ACADEMY IN MALABON City is celebrating its 30th year on Nov. 26. The dinner event will be held at The Elbow Room, MetroWalk, Meralco Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. Celebration starts at 7 p.m. For registration and inquiries, call 805-9863 or 805-6553 and ask for Ramona 'Monette' Ignacio-Cabrera.

Naturally.Kyla at Virgin Cafe, Suburbia

CATCH KYLA THE R&B PRINCESS IN A MORE INTIMATE SET-UP VIA A back-to-back XAX Music Entertainment bar gigs entitled "Naturally.Kyla" on Nov. 26 at Virgin Café in Tomas Morato and on Dec. 10 at Suburbia Bar in Malate, Manila. Tickets for both shows are P400 with 1 standard drink. Call 811-0725 or 926-8039 for Kyla's Virgin Café show; and for the Suburbia Bar show, call 811-0725 or text 0927-7355866.

Godiva's Diamond Peel promo is back

GODIVA SKIN STATION IS BRINGING BACK ITS INCREDIBLE DIAMOND PEEL promo with more attractive features and freebies. The Diamond Peel is down to P550 per session, with no restriction in purchases. The Diamond Peel can also be combined with Godiva's new Vitamin C ionotherapy for only P750. And the popular combo of facial and Diamond Peel is also back, for only P1,000. Customers can now also avail themselves of the Club G membership, and enjoy unlimited beauty rewards and free Godiva products with only a minimum purchase of P5,000. The Diamond Peel services can be combined with laser permanent hair removal, photorejuvenation, massage and body scrubs, all at drop-down prices. Club G members get automatic discounts from their purchases, and earn points with the Bring-A-Friend program. An interest-free installment scheme for three months is also available for all Equitable and Banco de Oro credit cardholders for a minimum purchase of P3,000. This promo is available until Nov. 30 only. For more details, visit or call the Godiva Skin Station in Makati, located at the ground floor of EBC Bldg., Buendia corner Makati Avenue (751-6140) or at SM Fairview (939-1105).

ProductFILES

Enjoy the new Jolly Pizzamelt Pie

LEAN GROUND BEEF INFUSED with the flavors of choice herbs and spices, smothered with rich tomato sauce, topped with real mozzarella cheese and stuffed into a crunchy pocket pie makes one irresistible creation. Combining the tempting tastes of your favorite pizza and the oh-so-crunchy pocket pie crust, the new Jolly Pizzamelt Pie is the must-try treat of the month. So don't even hesitate about it! Try out the new Jolly Pizzamelt pie whichever way you want and you'll surely be in for a one-of-a-kind delight. It's a winning combination with its pizza flavors and textures all wrapped up in a crunchy crust. Enjoy it with soothing Creamy Macaroni Soup or tasty Jolly Spaghetti for an extra special snack. Priced at only P18 per piece and available in a convenient discounted box of 3's that's ideal for pasalubong, the new Jolly Pizzamelt pie is guaranteed to be yet another big hit.

Tilex Mildew Root Penetrator: Tough on household molds

CLOROX INTRODUCES TILEX MILDEW ROOT PENEtrator and Remover, an effective cleaner that disinfects as it cleans. Its thick, powerful foam hangs on the surface longer to penetrate deeper and attack mildew at its roots. With good ventilation, after shower while the walls are still warm and wet, spray Tilex to thoroughly cover the surface then wipe with a cloth or wet sponge, and rinse. For more information about how to use the product, just visit www.tilex.com. Tilex Mildew Root Penetrator and Remover is now available in leading supermarkets nationwide.

Lip-smacking spicy snack

JACK 'N JILL INTRODUCES SEA CRUNCH Prawn Sticks Chili, a delightfully exciting new snack to add fun to your snack time. It spices up your ordinary seafood stick snacks with its hot twist of real chili. With the perfect combination of prawn's zesty flavor and chili's spiciness, one bite is surely a delightful experience. Sea Crunch Prawn Sticks is also available in Original Prawn Flavor. Now available in sari-sari stores and supermarkets nationwide.

ABS Herbs presents Grace VCO

ABS HERBS INTRODUCES IN THE MARKET GRACE Virgin Coconut Oil with more than 50 percent lauric acid, higher than most VCOs with its natural coconut taste and aroma. It is made using cold-press with ultra-centrifuge which spins off excess water from the oil, reducing moisture content to the barest minimum. The product is available at all Mercury Drugstores and Watsons outlets nationwide. For more details call 926-3252/ 925-9318 or visit www.abs-herbs.com.ph.

PACQUIAO ENDORSES CIRCULAN

Three-time world boxing champ Manny Pacquiao beams as he kicks off 4-in-1 Circulan's tri-media campaign promoting Filipino values that go into the making of a hands-down winner. Circulan is popular blood circulation-normalizing herbal dietary supplement, which, like Pacquiao, is all natural and dominates the field. Forthcoming advertising for Circulan will reveal Pacquiao's 'inner self' as he assumes his new 'Iron Manny' moniker. In photo, the world-renowned pugilist is flanked by Jose Salvador M. Rivera (left), president and Salvador O. Rivera, CEO of Macropharma Corp, exclusive importer of Circulan. In a rematch billed as 'The Battle', Pacquiao tackles Mexican Erik Morales in a Las Vegas 12-bout on Jan. 26 next year fully-powered by Circulan.

A NEW ENERGY DRINK FOR WOMEN

Nature's Best Products Inc has signed up Vina Morales as the celebrity endorser for Enerva, the first, powdered energy drink for Filipino women. Available in one-serve sachets, Enerva has ginseng, royal jelly and vitamins that can help provide energy and vitality for all hard-working women. Shown in photo during the contract signing are Vina Morales and executives from Nature's Best - lawyer Laura Guevara, corporate secretary; Ed Tarog, president; Serge Velez, chief operating officer.

F@ST BYTES ON THE RISE IN NORTHGATE CYBERZONE

Filinvest Alabang Inc (FAI) recently held groundbreaking rites for F@st Bytes, its latest retail development located within the Northgate Cyberzone information technology park in Alabang. For lease inquiries, call 809-5428. Present during the groundbreaking ceremony were (from left) FAI project head for commercial centers Anton Hechanova, FAI project head for IT leyo de Guzman, FAI vice president Michael Gotianun, project architect Jonathan Gan, and FAI project development manager Jun Gonzales.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2005

E-mail: pr_science_health@inquirer.com.ph

SCIENCE/HEALTH

Editor **Cesar D. Mangawang**
Assistant Editor **Stella O. Gonzales**

Text us your feedback: inquirer hea name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Specialist: Gastric surgery should only be last resort

By Charles E. Buban

BARIATRIC SURGERY—a surgical procedure on the stomach or intestines to help people lose weight—is not cosmetic surgery and should only be considered after all other options have proven to be ineffective.

According to Dr. Edward Oliveros, a weight reduction specialist at the St. Luke's Medical Center, people should carefully weigh the overall benefits, medical risks as well as the financial cost of the procedure.

"Although recent data are clear that, on average, the procedure is effective and the risk of complications and death is low (around 10 percent and below 1 percent, respectively), bariatric surgery should only be performed on appropriate candidates," said Oliveros.

He said bariatric surgery is primarily performed on morbidly obese individuals who have tried and failed with other weight loss therapies.

Least invasive

He said the procedure is recommended for those who are 50 percent to 100 percent above their ideal body weight, or have an obesity-related disease, such as diabetes, high blood pressure, sleep apnea, and stress on the back and joints.

He said that among the most common procedures are the intragastric balloon Bib system and the Lap-Band system, which are among the least invasive forms of bariatric surgery.

In the Bib system, a soft, expandable balloon is inserted in the stomach and then filled with sterile saline. When full, the balloon partially fills the stomach so the patient will always have a feeling of fullness.

In the Lap-Band system, a hollow band made of special material is placed around the stomach near its upper end, creating a small pouch and a narrow passage into the remainder of the stomach. The band is then inflated with a salt solution that can be tightened or loosened over time to change the size of the passage. It induces weight loss by reducing the capacity of the stomach, which restricts the amount of food that can be consumed.

While the Bib system may only be used up to six months (it can be replaced if weight loss is not yet achieved), the Lap-Band may be used for a longer period.

Unlike other types of bariatric surgery, these two procedures are reversible.

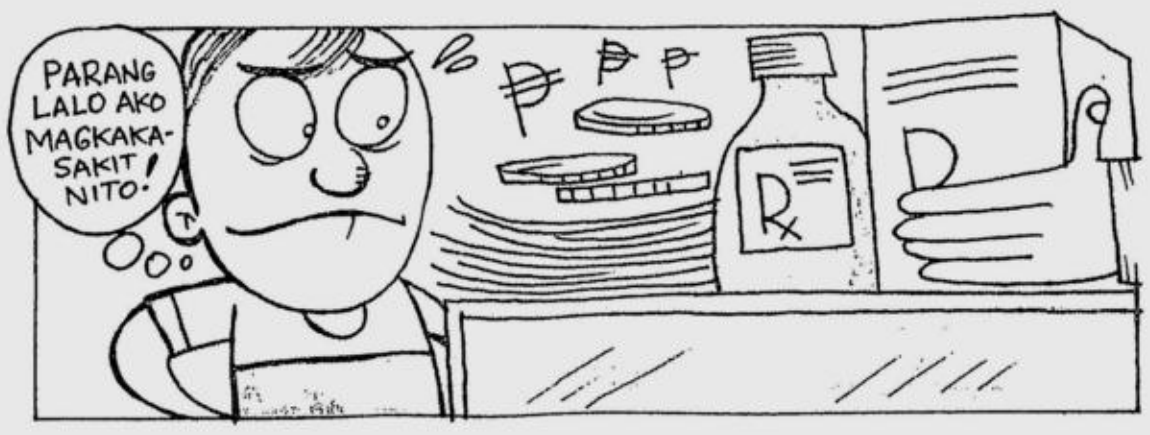
Lifetime change

Oliveros said that while many of his bariatric surgery patients have maintained an average weight loss of around 50 kg and even alleviated many of their weight-related health problems, their successful weight loss and maintenance was only made possible after they committed themselves to a lifetime of behavioral changes and medical follow-up.

"Even if their stomach's capacity is reduced, a patient can gain all of the weight back if he eats poorly and doesn't exercise. This is why a long-term patient-doctor relationship is encouraged since changing one's lifestyle is never easy and needs the cooperation and help of everybody," he explained.

Oliveros said morbid obesity is a disease, not a disorder of willpower, as sometimes implied.

He said: "It's a complex disorder. According to research, its causes are more complex than a simple struggle with will power. Genetics, medical problems [like heart disease and diabetes], environment, learned behavior and psychology all contribute to severe obesity. It's not a personal failure to control weight."



Affordable medicines

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

I WAS INVITED TO GIVE A LECture in Cebu City this week to some 500 doctors from the Visayas and Mindanao on how physicians can help patients afford essential medications through a more rational choice of drugs.

After the lecture, some doctors expressed dismay that no matter what physicians do, the glaring fact is that more than one-third of the population simply cannot afford to buy any medicine no matter how reasonable the cost may be. These patients rely mainly on the government to provide them medicines when they get sick. Unfortunately, the government is in no position to provide them this benefit.

MEDICAL FILES

It's quite apparent that the private sector, through generous medical foundations, has to take a more active role in helping the less fortunate obtain basic health care services.

It's hard to understand that of all Asian countries, the Philippines has the smallest allocation for health care, despite government pronouncements it one of its priorities is the provision of basic health services and making effective and safe drugs affordable.

A more disturbing fact is the report of the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism (PCIJ) last May that up to 70 percent of funds for the procurement medicines go to corruption. With a meager health budget to start with, the remaining funds left after overcharged costs of medicines and scandalous grease money for local executives could hardly buy quality medicines.

Accreditation procedures

The government should have more stringent accreditation procedures to weed out from its list of suppliers unscrupulous companies that offer medicines of inferior quality but grease money of superior proportions.

Someone who knows how these companies operate once told me that they (the companies) are able to afford rebates of up to 70 percent because the actual cost of their goods is only 10 percent of the quoted price, or even less. The quality of their products is, however, highly questionable. No wonder patients taking these medicines don't get well.

Medicines of inferior quality not only do not work, they can actually do more harm due to adverse reactions caused by the substandard product.

Prolongs lives

The remaining two-thirds of our population can still afford to buy medicines using their own funds, but it's ironic that because of the high cost of medicines, many grudgingly buy them. They do not realize that these drugs help prolong their lives and make sure that they don't get disabled so they can continue working and earning a living.

Not taking needed medicines is, in most cases, a more expensive and unacceptable alternative in the long run. Many patients sometimes realize this fact a bit too late when they're already disabled by a severe heart attack, stroke, kidney failure and other serious complications.

It's good that drug companies like Therapharma and Pfizer are sponsoring discussions among doctors to motivate them to explain to their patients that taking essential medicines is worth every peso spent as long as the medicines are proven to be effective and safe.

Pi and phi

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

A SOPHOMORE AT THE BULACan State University, Ben Sarmiento [gerardo_999333@yahoo.com] writes: "Pi interests me more than any other number. Who discovered pi? What is its exact value? Is there any formula to get the exact pi? I tried 22/7 but it is only an approximation."

Pi is the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter. I am not sure who discovered pi (it was already known in ancient times), but it was Welsh mathematician William Jones who introduced the symbol π, the first letter of the Greek word for circumference. The amazing thing about pi is that it is the same for all circles (try it yourself), but it cannot be expressed exactly as a decimal. Remember grade school math? Pi is an irrational number, a decimal which neither repeats nor ends. In 1761, the German mathematician Johann Heinrich Lambert was the first to prove this.

Approximation

You are right, 22/7 is only an approximation, but it is not bad. Or if you want, most scientists are already satisfied with using 3.1416 to approximate pi. In 1997, two University of Tokyo mathematicians used supercomputers to calculate pi to more than 51 billion decimal places! There are several formulas to calculate pi, some of which use series and are too complex to include here. They can be found in calculus books and math sites (such as www.mathforum.org).

Pi appears in lengths of curves, surface areas, solid volumes, vibrating strings, pendu lum motion, and electric currents. No wonder pi interests you more than any other number.

Golden mean

Michael Dave Mascardo [masquee13@yahoo.com] writes: "I recently finished the 'Da Vinci Code' and I'm curious about some of the things there, including the number phi. Is there really such a number? What is it about?"

I read the book, too, and found it intriguing, although keep in mind that it is still a work of fiction. But phi really does exist, in fact, it is called the golden ratio or the golden mean, and appears frequently in math and nature. The ancient Greeks deemed this proportion to be as precious as gold because it denotes balance and beauty.

They named this golden mean after the great sculptor Phidias, and shortened it to the first letter phi, symbolized by ϕ.

How is phi formed? Divide a line into two segments so that the ratio of the whole segment to the longer part is the same as the ratio of the longer part to the shorter part. (This is easily done if you draw the line and mark off the segments). Believe it or not, this works for every line, and the ratio is none other than phi, approximately equal to 1.61803. An easy formula is add the square root of 5 to 1, and then divide the whole thing by 2. Like pi, phi is also irrational.

Rabbit problem

Phi is also related to Fibonacci numbers 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13,... and so on, where except for the first two numbers, every successive number in the sequence equals the sum of the two previous ones.

You may have heard of Italian mathematician Leonardo Fibonacci's famous rabbit problem: A pair of newborn rabbits requires one month to mature and at the end of the second month and every month after that, reproduces itself. How many pairs will you have at the end of one month? Two months? Three months? Any number of months? The answers lie in the series above. (Try it.) And if you keep on getting the ratios of every two consecutive numbers, you will approach, you guessed it, phi.

Phi can be found everywhere: in flowers, trees, leaves, elephant tusks, ferns, sea horse tails, ocean waves, hurricanes, seashells, horns, the cochlea of our ears, and galaxies spinning through the heavens. No wonder phi also appears in the "Da Vinci Code," although not exactly in the way mathematicians intended.

E-mail the author at blessbook @yahoo.com.

The flavor of fat

DISCOVER

Massie Santos Ballon

TEXTBOOKS TELL US THAT OUR tongues recognize five flavors: sweet, sour, bitter, salty and umami. New research from French researchers now suggests that a sixth flavor has been identified: fat.

This is not the first time that fat has been suggested as a sixth basic taste. Four years ago, a researcher at Purdue University made the same claim. However, Richard Mattes, a professor of food and nutrition, was only able to note a chemical response triggered by smelling and tasting fat. He was unable to determine what kind of pathway might be involved and he hoped further research would prove his theory correct.

Researchers led by Philippe Besnard of the University of Bourgogne in France have come up with a partial answer to Mattes' work. They studied the fatty acid transporter CD36 to determine its role in detecting dietary lipids. Their paper appears in this month's issue of The Journal of Clinical Investigation.

Preference for fat

Previous studies, Besnard et al. noted, demonstrated that rats and mice have a preference for fat. So do humans, or else rich foods like sans rival cake, deep-fried chocolate bars or *chicharon* wouldn't be so popular.

Why is fat so addictive? Because it makes people feel good. It's comfort food at its most basic level: it not only makes people feel warm and fuzzy all over, but it also makes them feel full. This suggests that the way obese people perceive their food plays a role in what they choose to eat and how much.

Fat, not lean

Studies involving humans have shown that obese participants preferred fattier foods to leaner options, while slimmer participants had the opposite reaction.

Extremely overweight people who choose food with high fat content, for example, are also those who tend to eat larger portions at each meal, and eat more often.

One recent avenue of investigation that has opened up in the field of nutrition research as a result of the study is what impact the senses have on determining the type and amount of food a person eats.

Because overconsumption of fat greatly contributes to the current epidemic of obesity, Besnard et al. wondered how the presence or absence of a taste bud for fatty foods would affect one's food intake.

They worked with rats and mice to prove that CD36 plays a role in detecting fat. Half of the rodents were knockouts lacking CD36; the other half were normal, wild-type animals that served as the controls.

Normal vs knockout

When the researchers put fatty acids on the tongues of the control rodents, they noted that fat-processing substances were released from the digestive organs. This was not true in the case of the knockout group.

The researchers then fed the control group with regular food, while the knockout group was given regular food supplemented with corn oil. The researchers found that the normal rodents preferred the oil-enriched food to the regular food, whereas the knockout rodents had no such preference.

Besnard et al. noted that CD36 functions within the fatty acid pathway were still unknown. Although nutritional research may well prove that it plays a role in weight control, the answers will come with further research.

With this in mind, the French researchers are now working at developing rodent strains that will either overexpress or underexpress CD36 in the taste buds to further explore the part this receptor plays in whether or not food perceptions could cause one to overeat and thus become overweight.

It may well be that by the time textbooks are revised to note that the tongue recognizes six basic tastes, they will also contain information about the molecular pathways of each one, and how each of these tastes are detected and identified.

E-mail the author at massie@massie.com.

PROPERTY

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

Bringing fine residential architecture to the masses

By Charles E. Buban

A LOT OF PEOPLE STILL believe that an architect's services are available only to those with a big budget or to those who are at least willing to stretch their resources a little further.

More often people skip their services believing their project will get through anyway and save money in the process.

Says architect Maria Cynthia Ylagan-Funk of the United Architects of the Philippines (UAP), the largest organization of architects in the Philippines and the only organization with the right to represent Filipino architects here and abroad: "An architect's services are a wise investment for the money, not an added cost to your project. Even if you are working within a tight budget, it does not make good economical sense to cut corners on design. Getting the services of an architect will help you avoid costly mistakes—and can assure that the home or structure you build is ideally suited for the way you live or want it to be."

Funk laments that despite these facts, architects and their services have been dubbed as luxury rather than necessity.

Not only for the upper crust

"Our services are not only for the upper crust of the society as we were able to also come up with beautiful and functional homes and at the same time affordable and within budget," says Funk.

She explains that a well-conceived project can be built more efficiently and economically.

"Want to build energy-efficient buildings that save money on electric bills down the road? An architect can design a building that lets in natural light, protect its occupants from the sun's excessive heat, thus reducing the homeowner's cooling and electricity bills over time," reveals Funk.

She says the UAP will aim to further change other misconception with the organization's upcoming 34th nationwide Architecture Week whose activities will simultaneously be held at MC Home Depot at The Fort in Taguig City, UAP headquarters on Scout Rallos Street in Quezon City, and all UAP chapters nationwide from Dec. 3 to 10.

Architectural consultations

The nationwide Architecture Week is one of UAP's biggest events involving all its more than 100 chapters nationwide.

"Apart from medical and dental missions, fun events, exhibits and workshops, we will set up an architectural consultation lounge in line with the event's theme, 'Architects At Your Service.' We will try to reach out to more people, particularly those planning to build a home," reveals architect Antonio Valdez, this year's event chair.

He says an architect, just like doctors and lawyers, has trainings that cover many areas—ranging from landscape design to structural engineering.

"This diversity means that an architect can see possibilities and find solutions to your special needs. While other experts may make some adaptations at your request, a good architect will anticipate your needs—even if you don't realize them yet," assures Valdez.

He adds that working with contractors and other construction professionals, architects can help home buyers end up with a well-designed project that meets their needs and works within their budget and time frame.

Filipino touch

Funk adds that throughout the eight-day event, UAP will also attempt to promote architectural design with Filipino touch.

"While many of today's home buyers are very fond of Mediterranean- or American-style homes, as architects, we should also show them designs having Filipino or at least Asian influence and how this design can make a difference," says Funk.

She believes that if one digs deeper, one would discover that the Filipino culture is richer than many, many other countries and can thus be applied in the design of their homes.

"They will be surprised that even the simplest indigenous materials such as bamboo, coconut shell, wood and stone can be transformed into distinctive exteriors and elegant interiors that nurture a contemporary Filipino or Asian lifestyle.

As explained by Funk, the term Filipino architecture covers a wide range of buildings and styles—ranging from tribal homes to the ubiquitous *bahay kubo* to grand houses of Spanish colonial period to the works of present-day Filipino architects.

"But whatever idea you have in mind, the best strategy is to sit down with your architect and identify the services you needed when planning for a home," advises Funk.

THE MAIA Alta model home

Grand Italian cities

CROWN ASIA, KNOWN FOR A SUCCESSFUL decade of developing masterplanned and themed communities, meets the urbanite's high standards with its two strategically sited residential enclaves inspired by Italy's splendor and historical artistic heritage—Citta Italia in Imus, Cavite and Maia Alta in Antipolo, Rizal.

Crown Asia understands how travel becomes a rare if not impossible leisure for individuals who painstakingly labor for their family's future. Driven by the aspiration to fulfill lifelong dreams of Filipino families, it brings home a taste of Italy with the careful planning and execution of its developments nestled in two desirable locations.

Mediterranean living

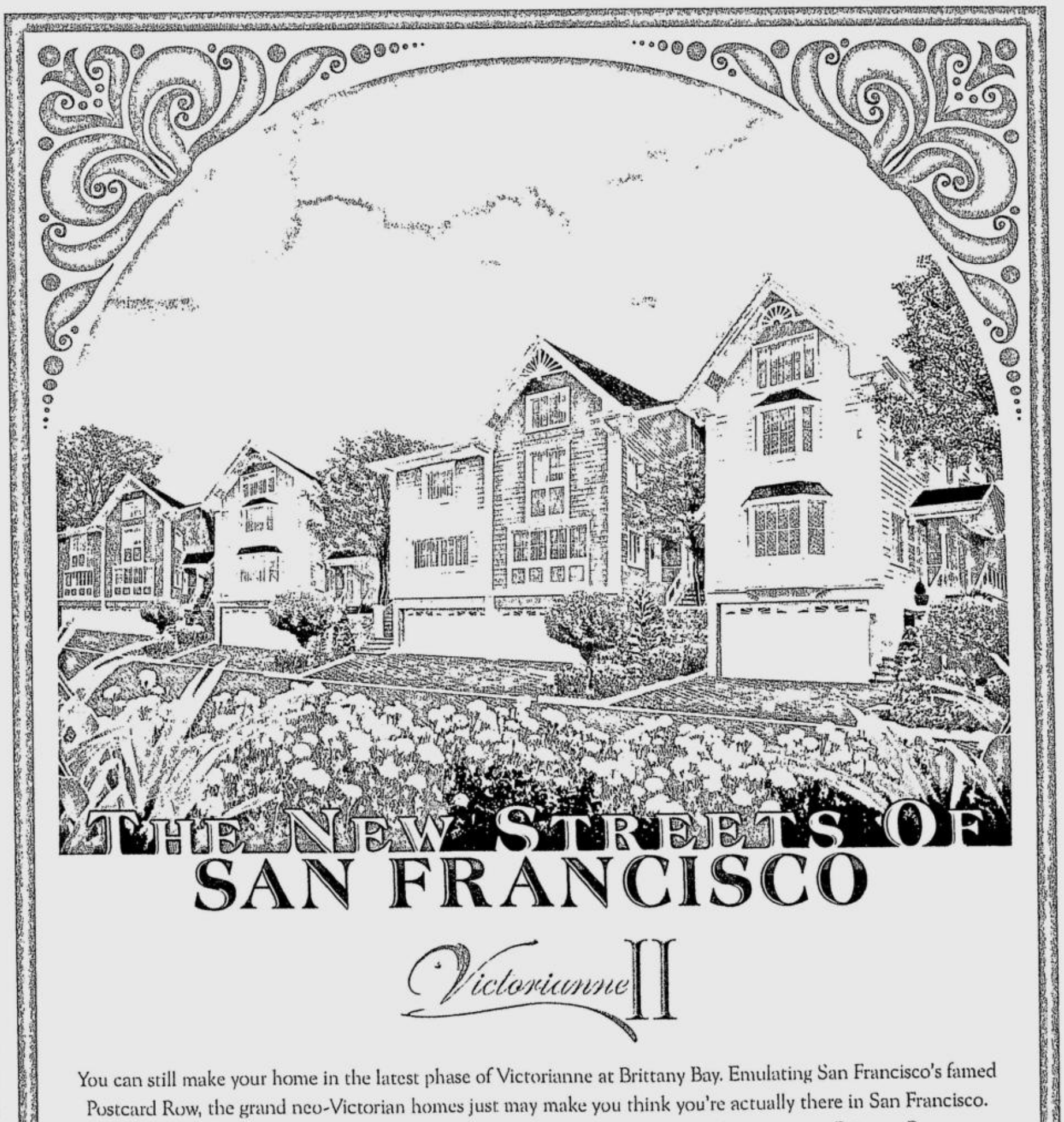
Located in the heart of Imus, Cavite, Citta Italia is just minutes away from the conveniences which the south's booming industrial city has to offer. Though rapidly developing, Cavite still maintains its rustic ambiance while nature is enhanced with Citta Italia's abundant landscaping.

Already a lived-in neighborhood of more than 70 hectares, Citta Italia has grown to 11 phases to accommodate more and more families who desire an Italian-inspired home in the south. Among the many phases are Milano, Venezia, Roma, Messina, Verona, Palladio, Lessinia and Vicenza with Vetta (Italian for "peak") and Brescia as its newest phases.

Within each development are lovely single-detached abodes dubbed the Crown Jewels, which combine cosmopolitan living with the elegance of Italy. Each masterplanned detail, from the majestic entry gate, Romanesque statues and pillars, to the Fontana uniting the row of homes draws the feel of living in the quaint Italian countryside.

A mere 45-minute drive from Citta Italia will take you to the central business district of Makati. Just minutes away are exclusive schools

GRAND/ B2-4



Helping our country through architecture

LIVING ARCHITECTURE

Marcos de Guzman Jr.

THIS ARTICLE WAS INSPIRED BY THE ideas I picked up from a newspaper column discussing a new book by a refreshing Filipino writer. That book, which I haven't read, and its author, who I haven't met, have stirred me to view my personal field and apply his thoughts to circumstances I know best.

The problems that plague our country are so great that sometimes we feel dwarfed by them. We are helpless by ourselves. Alone, we cannot seem to make a difference. Take heart! On the contrary, there are a number of ways we can help our country. Here are a few:

• **Speak well of the Philippines.** We need to paint a good picture of our country, especially to the people abroad. We have to entice them to visit as tourists or, even better, as investors. And we do not have to lie about anything. There are so many things we can be proud of. Great scenery, friendly people and charming customs. We have a booming real estate industry, though some still refuse to admit it.

Good words could create a snowball effect that will create more opportunities, more jobs and greater spending power, and thus a more vibrant economy. Real estate development is an industry that other countries cannot readily dominate within our own shores. Unlike the manufacturing sector, which has suffered stiff competition with countries such as China, we have first option at developing our own lands.

• **Buy local products.** Buying locally produced items not only helps our manufacturing sector, it also keeps the wealth within the country. Instead of using imported roof tiles, floor tiles and natural stone, we can choose the local alternatives which are just as durable and could even be more economical. Architects have the responsibility of educating their clients about the feasibility and availability of locally manufactured materials. Again, this will create more jobs, greater buying power and additional markets for various industries.

• **Initiate project development.** There are people with bright ideas, people with money, people with property and those who are good at orchestrating things. Put them together and you can have a development. It all starts with identifying a particular need and thinking of ways to address them. This way, we solve problems, help the community, and together make a decent living.

• **Plan efficiently.** Planning efficiently is not limited to analyzing layouts and flows or external appearance. Planning consists of thinking first before acting. This may involve simple tasks such as properly scheduling errands to the complex job of city planning. Blunders occur when people act without thinking and these could be committed by the lowliest employees to the highest national leaders. Errors could crop up in layout, cost efficiency and energy efficiency, among others. Planning reduces wastage. And waste does not do anybody any good.

A TRUE example of Filipino architecture, which made use of locally available materials, is the Coconut Palace that has stood the test of time.

• **Develop a distinctive Filipino architecture.** Having a distinctive architecture is good, not just for the collective Filipino pride and culture, but in the most practical sense, it is good for tourism. Bali is known for its customs and architecture. It can be an attraction in itself. One of our national artists, architect Bobby Mañoza, is years ahead in espousing and promoting this endeavor and has reaped laurels for his efforts. He has published a book "Designing Filipino" which gives us an overview of what is innately Filipino architecture. He has also been promoting the use of local materials in astoundingly creative ways.

• **Promote sustainability.** A damaged ecology is devastating to a country. Respect the existing terrain. Avoid the practices and uses of materials that are harmful to the environment. Excessive use of lumber contributes to deforestation, which ultimately ends up in landslides, floods and loss of lives. Some chemicals used in construction and the improper disposal of construction waste likewise affect our soil and potable water. Aerosols used in automotive lacquer paints affect the ozone layer, thus contributing to global warming. Awareness of the danger solves half the problem. But only concerted and committed action can solve the other half.

• **Innovate and develop better systems in building.** Conventional ways of construction seem to be wasteful. We are left with so much debris after every construction job. I remember an Australian contractor commenting that it seems there is more debris being hauled out of a building, rather than construction materials being put in. Again, an effort toward this would minimize our dumping and waste disposal problems, as well as cutting down on fuel and energy use.

• **Follow construction codes and building regulations.** Rules are placed there for a reason. Generally, following them benefits the greater majority. Though building regulations, particularly those in the latest Building Code Implementing Rules and Regulations issue, are relatively new and not always in perfect sync with the local authorities' interpretation, adhering to the code is encouraged. For innovations in planning and design, the local authorities are often open to new and positive ideas.

These recommendations are nothing new. But in order to instill them in the minds of our fellow builders, it must be repeated often enough to be remembered, if not to be enacted. Alone, we may not matter but collectively, we will make a difference!

THE SMART CHOICE IN LAMINATE & POLYCARBONATE

SONNENBLÖCK® SUPER POLYCARBONATE SHEET For Skylight Roofing

POLIART® BACTERIOSTATIC LAMINATES
e-laminati® ECONOMICAL LAMINATES
ABC® WHITE BOARD • LAMINATES
QUSCAR® DECORATIVE PANELS

Call for your FREE SAMPLE BROCHURE
MULTI-GLOBAL MARKETING
493-D Union Bldg., Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City
Tels. 725-5118 • 724-5608 TELEFAX 721-4525

A MASTERPLANNED community at The Legacy is dream living at its ultimate peak.

The Legacy at Montgomery Place: A legacy for our kids

A TRANQUIL playground of cool waters promises enjoyment and relaxation.

Your Total Solution To Any Waterproofing Problem

FLEXSEAL™ Elastomeric Paint
Total waterproofing protection for walls, floors & other general waterproofing requirements

SUPERSEAL Cementitious Waterproofing Coating
Heavy-duty cement-based waterproofing protection for walls, floors, basements, water tanks and other water-holding structures

FLEXROOF Elastomeric Roof Paint
Gloss waterproof roof paint specially made to waterproof and finish most type of roofings

From the most trusted name in waterproofing:
CAMPBRIDGE Waterproofing Systems, Inc.
1370 JOSE ABAD SANTOS AVENUE METRO MANILA, PHILIPPINES
Tel. # 252-0531
AVAILABLE THROUGH DEALERS NATIONWIDE

Eurovek PIPING SYSTEMS uPVC DEEP WELL CASING & SCREEN PIPES

Used in underground wall systems to benefit subterranean water and are manufactured in accordance to DIN 4925 German standards.
Non-Toxic, lightweight, easy to install, with threaded connection, and has a lifespan of fifty (50) years
eurovek building solutions, inc.
Eurovek Building 7443 Santillan cor Fernando Sts Makati City
Tels 815 0191 827 830 0601 894 4355 • Fax 812 0912
Mobile (0918) 9334721 23 • Email eurovek@yahoo.com

Eurovek PIPING SYSTEMS plastherm®

WORLD'S NO. 1 POLYPROPYLENE PIPE WITH FUSION WELDING
• GUARANTEED NO LEAK, NO RUST
• IDEAL FOR HOT, COLD, CHILLED WATER, AIR AND GAS
• MADE IN GERMANY WITH 50 YRS. WARRANTY
eurovek building solutions, inc.
Eurovek Building 7443 Santillan corner Fernando Sts., Makati City
Tels.: 815-0191-92/ 830-0601/ 894-4355
Fax. 812-0912 • Mobile (0918) 9334721-23
Email: eurovek@yahoo.com

UNEQUALLED PERFORMANCE
macnell architectural paints

ACRE COAT
Coats like no other, for that 100% waterproof finish. The perfect blend of strength and aesthetics.

MACNELL AQUASEAL
A new generation of waterproofing technology that provides protection from destructive effects of water seepage.

ACRYL MEL
Provides excellent hiding power and easy brushing..

ACRE CAST
Specially formulated to provide ultimate surface protection, Washable texture.

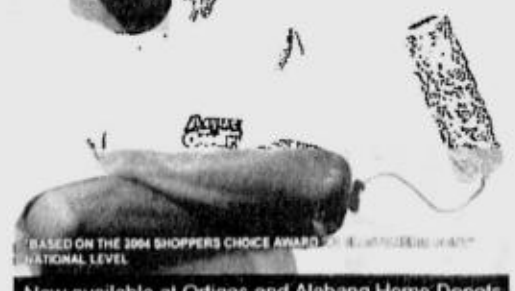
ACRE LAX
Combines the advantage of acrylic latex and emulsion latex.

Eliminates Concrete Seepage 100% Waterproof

Manufactured by
MAYON INDUSTRIAL CORP.
61 JOY CORNER HARMONY STS., GRACE VILLAGE, BALINTAWAK, QUEZON CITY, METRO MANILA
TELS.: 241-3353 • 364-5731 • 364-4733
241-3159 • 364-7135 • 364-6345

Aqua Guard®
Elastomeric Waterproofing Paint

THE #1 ELASTOMERIC PAINT IN THE PHILIPPINES !!! *



*BASED ON THE 2004 SHOPPERS CHOICE AWARD NATIONAL LEVEL

Now available at Ortigas and Alabang Home Depots
22 standard colors (factory tint available upon request) in Sheen and Semi-Gloss

Outstanding flexibility & elongation!!!
From the maker of: UNIVERSAL PAINT
H-Chem Ind. Inc. (632) 6468773 www.hchem.com.ph

3 areas

The Pavilion exclusively within The Legacy is a 900-square-meter area centered on the happiness and well-being of our families, especially our children. A tranquility pool sparkles invitingly and is an attraction to all workaholics, parents and energetic children. At the same time, the pool provides sensations of peace and relaxation amid landscaped gardens and foliage.

The Porch, located within the Pavilion, is a social area ideal for those precious occasions for celebration. It is also a safe haven for children to play in and meet with children of next-door neighbors. Truly, the sound of children's laughter is a gift to savor and enjoy.

For the rest of the family, the third area of the Pavilion, known as the Courtyard, is where different types of exercises may be practiced. From a brisk stroll, a tiring aerobic workout, challenging yoga postures and the more relaxing tai chi stretch to a simple game of catch. The possibility of living a full and healthy life, together with one's family and valued friends, is indeed a combination too perfect to resist.

Having the privilege to enjoy evening strolls and to have heart-to-heart talks with our children, in a beautiful setting right in one's backyard is a sure sign that life is not passing you by.

True value for money

The Legacy at Montgomery Place is devoted to upholding the examples set by the Ayala Land Premier projects. The strategic address, the recreational facilities and security features ideal for families, all combined with a stylish, spacious home offer true value for money, which is beyond doubt irresistible.

To know more about The Legacy at Montgomery Place, call 728-7000, e-mail ayala-sales@ayalaland.com.ph or visit www.ayalaland.com.ph. Model units are available for viewing on-site.

SPACE WITHIN THE CITY IS A scarce and valuable commodity, but The Legacy at Montgomery Place provides for it generously.

The Legacy at Montgomery Place provides a serene atmosphere as well as a spacious and fashionable area for living amid the hustle of city life.

Found just within the confines of the fast growing community known as Montgomery Place, The Legacy takes the extra and thoughtful step to cater to young couples and their families. Located on E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City, it is a mere stone's throw away from schools, commercial and shopping establishments, major business districts and top medical facilities.

The style of these homes evokes images of the easy and relaxed southern way of life in America.

More space

The split-level design of the single-detached homes maximizes space, and the three-level design of the quadruplex units provides even more space and high ceilings—all without sacrificing the comfort of the residents.

The community of The Legacy at Montgomery Place is carefully designed with foresight and constructed with the needs of a family in mind.

CUEVASVILLE GRAND OPEN HOUSE
Cuevasville Realty and Development Corp. will unveil its latest subdivision project today at its sprawling property in Molino, Bacoor, Cavite. Phase 2 of Cuevasville subdivision offers a healthful and an all-assuring environment, retaining the greenery of a growing suburb now rising in Cavite. The subdivision promises to bring residents close to nature with a well-planned community abode which enhances family-oriented lifestyle. It is accessible from both the Alabang/Filinvest exit and Alabang/Zapote Road through the coastal Bacoor/Molino roads.

Mayfair TOWER

33 STORIES
OF LUXURY
TOWERING OVER
U.N. AVENUE CORNER
MABINI STREET,
MALATE, MANILA

Model Units are Available
for Viewing at the
SM 5th Level
MANILA

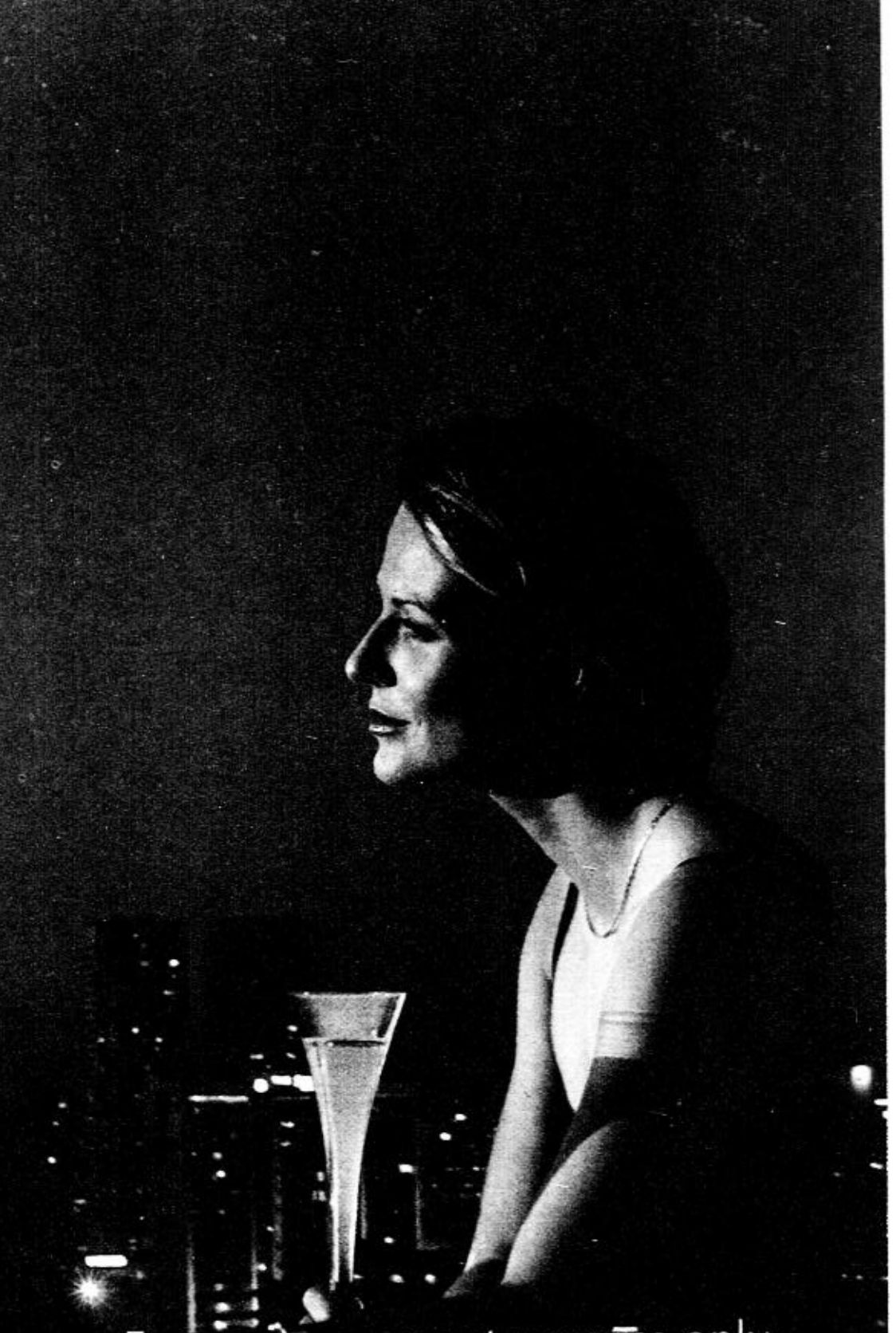
Tel. Nos. (632) 524 6512 / 524 6758

Another quality project of

Anchor Land
Holdings Inc.

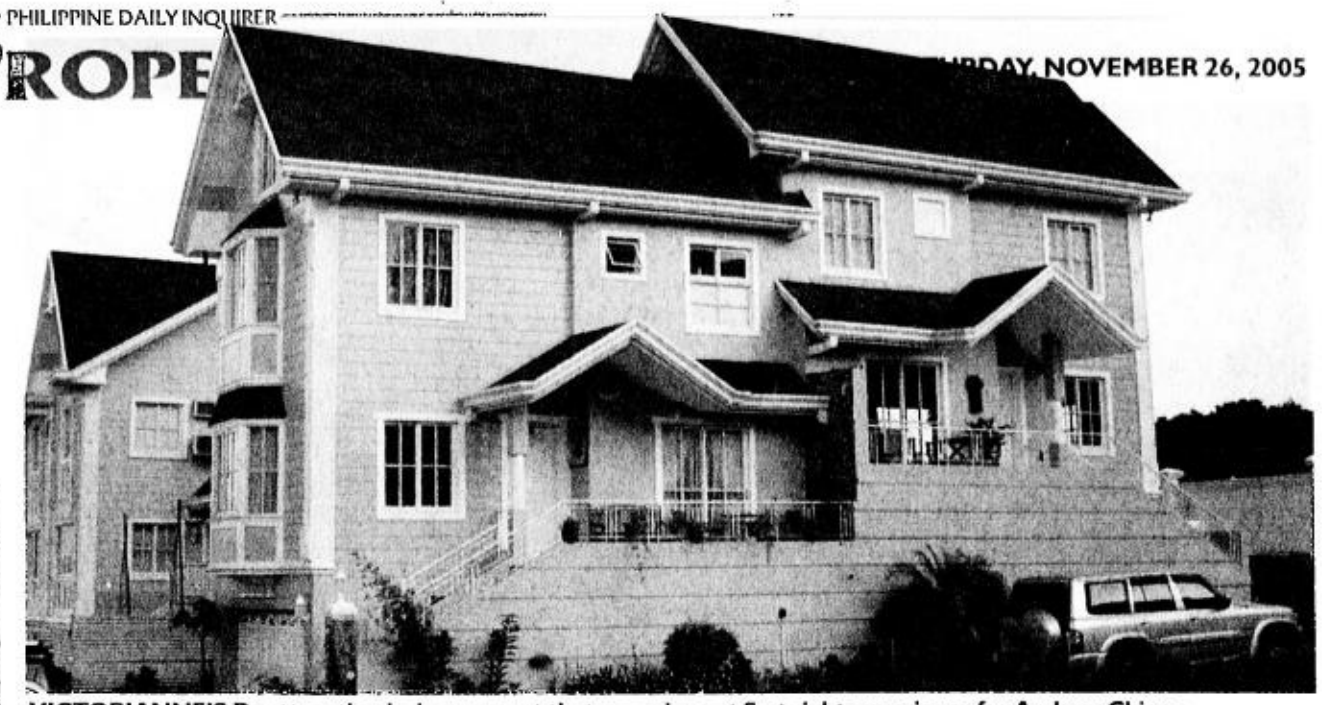
Hotline (632) 888 6688
Tel. Nos. (632) 886 3572 to 74
Cel No. (63) 0906 3692003

scenic living



For announcement purpose only.

Victorianne: a place for keeps


VICTORIANNE'S Duetto—the design concept that was a love at first sight experience for Andrew Chiang.

FOR SOMEONE WHO SPENT HIS college years living in California, businessman Andrew Chiang was pleasantly surprised when he stumbled into the Victorianne, a row of neo-Victorian houses from real estate maverick Brittany Corp.

"It really looks like California!" exclaimed Andrew, now a proud homeowner of the property. Located south of Manila within La Posada in Brittany Bay, the picture postcard street is reminiscent of San Francisco's Painted Ladies—one of the West Coast's most popular tourist attractions today.

"My first priority when I was searching for a home was the community. I wanted a small neighborhood with a swimming pool and all the amenities. The price should be reasonable and the neighborhood safe," he explained.

Discovering the property

The Dencio's Grill at The Wharf was what led him to discover the property. Having had business meetings at the restaurant, he learned of the Victorianne and became immediately interested.

A visit to the site and it was love at first sight. The view, he said, was what convinced him to take the corner property. The bay window in his living room overlooks lush foliage that completely blocks off both the sight and sound of traffic outside and allows him to greet the new day with a fresh cup of coffee in peace. No amount of money, he added, could buy that.

Said Andrew: "The house is not that small and not that big. It's just the exact size for me. The design is really nice. There was a model home but I wanted to personalize it. So outside it's Victorian but inside, the concept is very Zen. Instead of three bedrooms in the second floor, I made it two so I was able to create a walk-in closet there. All the furniture and fixtures were especially made for this unit."

Upon entering the house, one is confronted by a pristine living area dominated by selected Asian elements. Cream, white and wood shades serve as the primary palette. The bay window is the focal point and is flanked by shelves filled with mementos on either side. On the left is a large, wooden day bed with a wood coffee table at the center. On top are a glass chess set and three cream-colored candles. Opposite the bay window is a long wooden bench holding various Asian knick knacks. White Japanese lanterns adorn the ceiling and a lone Japanese warrior stand guard at the corner to complete the living room.

JUST a sampling of the many items in Andrew's house.

Favorite spot

Immediately to the right of the door is one of Andrew's favorite spot in the house. A wicker chair and ottoman is situated right beside a window where one can see guests coming and going. The spot is perfect for a quiet afternoon with a cold drink and a thick paperback novel.

Left of the doorway is the dining area with a simple glass top resting on a wooden base. The wall of mirror make the room appear larger while an intricate wood carving creates a focal point and serves as an interesting conversation piece as well. To the left is a glass door that opens to a small balcony where Andrew takes his morning coffee. Directly opposite is the kitchen—his favorite room in the house.

A CUSTOMIZED wicker chair is situated in a perfect spot, a place where Andrew stays when he feels like relaxing and slowing down a bit.

"I love to cook so I really took time out to furnish this kitchen," he explained.

His labor of love paid off. Though he continued the wood motif in the cabinetry, the countertops were made of granite. The small space held some top-of-the-line kitchen equipment and the cabinets were fitted with storage helpers to ensure that everything was immediately accessible.

The master suite was a more subdued affair. Simply furnished with a custom-made wooden bed dominating the room, it is the specially built walk-in closet which serves as its unique feature. Within this well-utilized space, dressing up in the morning can feel like one is actually out shopping!

"The design is really just quiet and simple—very Zen. I just want a place where I can have some coffee and feel like I'm in San Francisco," Andrew enthused.

2 unit models

Victorianne has two model units available. Duetto, a four-level structure, has two units back-to-back to ensure the homeowner's privacy. The Quadrille, on the other hand, is a cluster of four units sharing two of the four walls to maximize the space. A separate entrance guarantees the homeowner's privacy. The Duetto and Quadrille occupy a total of 146 sq m of floor space on an 86- sq-m lot and 126-sq-m floor space on a 70-sq-m lot, respectively.

Amenities offered by the property include underground cabling for power, communication and CATV, available wiring for high-speed Internet connection, high- level security alarm system, swimming pool, shower rooms, tea garden, lily pond, multifunction hall, children's playground, and game courts.

"This place is definitely for keeps," said Andrew. "But if I eventually need a bigger place, I'll stay with Brittany. They really deliver what they promise."

For inquiries and property previews, please call 850-2868 or 850-3084, or visit www.brittany.com.ph.

Oriental Garden: Makati's new coveted address

LIFE IN THE METROPOLIS IS VERY competitive. Whether it be at work or at home, only the best is demanded from excellent individuals. Similarly, these achievers expect only the best from the products they patronize and the services they avail of, given the lifestyle they lead.

Oriental Garden Makati, an executive residential condominium from Federal Land Inc., is specially tailored for those with refined tastes and exacting demands of luxury, privacy and convenience. It provides city dwellers with their own space of serenity and comfort in the heart of the bustling metropolis.

Easily accessible

Choose between the Lotus Tower or the Orchid Tower. Both offer excellent views of the surrounding areas of Makati City. Oriental Garden Makati is easily accessible from either Chino Roces Avenue or Export Avenue. And now, access to the towers has been made even more convenient with the recent facelift of adjacent Chino Roces Avenue.

With a road-widening program together with an improved drainage system and well-lit sidewalks, coming home has never been safer and easier.

Piece of investment

Truly, a home at Oriental Garden Makati has become even more valuable and coveted. Even as a piece of investment, a unit at the executive condominium development ensures value over time, backed by the track record of Federal Land in delivering products even ahead of schedule. Never has a home been such a mark of pride and achievement than in this sophisticated urban sanctuary.

THE LUXURIOUS and stylish ambiance combined with the air of warmth or intimacy give you an unwinding experience fit for royalty.

With a choice of studio, one-bedroom, two-bedroom and penthouse units in either of the twin towers, and payment terms as affordable as P14,000 per month, being a part of the upcoming desirable address in the metro is not difficult to achieve.

Start your new life at Oriental Gardens Makati, brought to you by Federal Land, the property arm of the trustworthy Metrobank group of companies. For more information, call 889-6414 or 889-4900 or send inquiries to inquiry@federalland.com.ph.

Using basic tools for home improvements, repairs

LIVING IN A HOUSE YEAR after year is not just confined to how beautiful it looks. More importantly, the art of house management entails other aspects like home improvements and repairs.

To carry out such improvements or undertake such repairs, every household should ideally need a fairly complete assortment of tools to use when the need arises.

Helpful tips

Here are some helpful tips on the basic tools for home improvements and repairs from Ortigas Home Depot.

• Work in a well-lit, uncluttered area. Keep tools and materials organized. Make sure that you clean as you go in order to prevent stepping on hanging nails.

• Toxic materials like wood preservatives, oil-based enamel, varnish, lacquer, adhesives, insulation and even sawdust should be stored properly because they are harmful to one's health.

• Wearing sturdy clothing and safety gear is a must to prevent accidents. Always wear safety glasses when using power tools. All-leather or leather-reinforced gloves will help protect your hands.

• Always remember that power tools equate to electricity. Make sure that they are plugged properly. Avoid using a long extension cord because it can overheat, creating a fire hazard.

• Sawing jobs require the right kind of saw to be used, precise measuring and careful cutting.

• Drilling holes would require a power drill because of its many uses—for screws, bolts, lock sets, hinges, masonry fasteners and pipes.

• The art of fastening is fundamental to repair and improvement, especially with the right use of hammers for driving a nail without marring the wood's surface. With its three main types—standard, Phillips and square drive—the screwdriver must fit the screw exactly. Other tools are a pair of pliers and an adjustable wrench that can drive lag screws, tighten bolts and nuts, or remove existing structures such as cabinets and built-in.

Many other tools with their variety of uses are available at Ortigas Home Depot. These range from simple manual tools to cordless power tools like Buffalo, Eagle, KYK, Lotus and Stanley.

Ortigas Home Depot located at No. 1 Doña Julia Vargas Ave., Barangay Ugong, Pasig City, is open every day from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Now also open is Westgate Alabang Home Depot located on Alabang-Zapote Road corner Filinvest Avenue, Westgate, Alabang.

Philip Recto awardees off to Singapore

GO

MANALO

THE PHILIP RECTO DESIGN EXCELLENCE Awards instituted by the UP College of Architecture announced that Michael Go and Monnica Manalo recently left for Singapore to join Architects 61, one of the best architectural firms in Asia.

Both magna cum laude graduates, Go and Manalo have already started their two-year training with Architects 61 in Singapore and joined other Philip Recto awardees at the same firm.

Founded in 1974, Architects 61 has designed many landmarks in Singapore. Among them are the Raffles City Complex, UOB Plaza, Singapore Exchange Center, Fullerton Hotel and the Fort Canning Country Club.

Their ongoing projects include the One Raffles Quay, a twin-tower office complex conceived as the gateway to the new CBD of Singapore. The firm also has offices in Kuala Lumpur and Shanghai.

The Philip Recto Award program started in 2000. It gives recognition to top design theses and also helps the awardees get overseas training with renowned architectural firms in Singapore or Kuala Lumpur for a two-year period with a attractive remuneration.

Recto himself started his professional career in Simgapore where he was the architect in charge of International Plaza, the first 50-story building in Singapore.

Grand Italian cities From page B2-1

such as De La Salle-Dasmariñas and Elizabeth Seton in Imus.

Soon to open within Citta Italia is Montessori De Manila's Palmridge School, envisioned to be "the premier school in Cavite." The Montessori was cited by the Department of Education as "one of the top performing schools in the Philippines." Other nearby conveniences are SM Bacoor, Robinsons, Makro and Waltermart.

Italian lifestyle in the east

The rustic ambiance of Italy's historical and culture-rich cities combined with warmth and elegance are captured by Crown Asia and then adapted to the quaint community of Maia Alta.

Nestled in the rolling terrain of Antipolo, Rizal, Maia Alta residents enjoy beautiful vistas of Metro Manila while constant cool breeze is wafted to their homes, especially during December.

Surrounded by a spectacular view and rolling terrain agreeing with Antipolo's tranquil ambiance, Maia Alta offers the ideal environment in which to raise families. The community's wide open spaces allow children to frolic, treasuring moments of carefree fun and laughter.

Inspired by the success of Maia Alta's first phase, immediate development of the Hills, Gardens, Orchard and Groves followed. As the newest phase located along the highest point of Antipolo, the Terraces offers an unobstructed view of Binangonan and Laguna de Bay.

Maia Alta retains the sense of privacy and exclusivity for its residents though it is a mere 30-minute drive from the business and commercial district of Ortigas and a 45-minute drive from Makati. Within reach are prime schools such as UP, Ateneo, Assumption and La Salle as well as malls like Robinsons and Sta. Lucia.

Italian charm of the Crown Jewels

Inspired by Italy's rich culture and distinct architecture, Crown Asia offers the five Crown Jewels at Citta Italia and Maia Alta to suit every family's unique needs and budget:

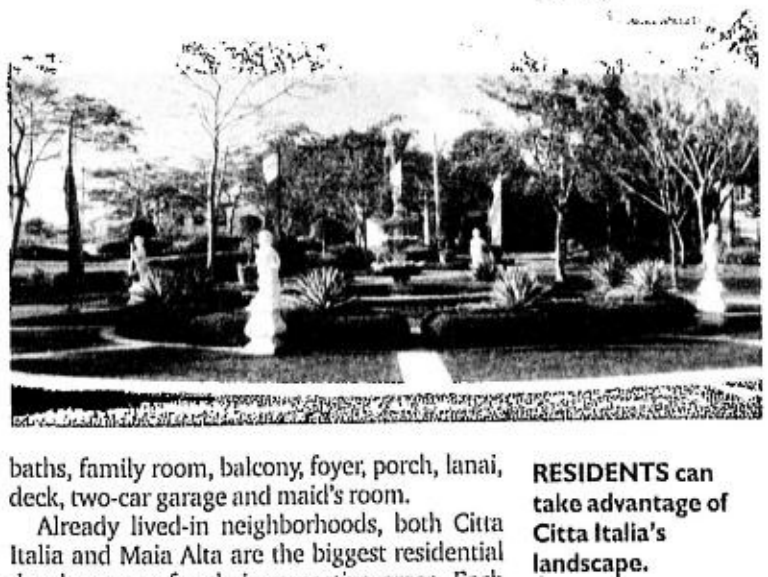
• **Jade.** Offering highly functional living space, the Jade model features a living and dining area, kitchen, two bedrooms, a toilet and bath, family hall and lanai with floor area of 64 sq m on 110-sq-m lot area.

• **Pearl.** The charm of Italy's architecture is evident in the Pearl model, with a floor area of 79 sq m on 110-sq-m lot area. It features three bedrooms, two toilets and baths, porch and lanai.

• **Sapphire.** A precious find for the growing family, the Sapphire model has a more spacious kitchen, and living and dining areas. With a floor area of 95 sq m on 121-sq-m lot area. It also features a family room, three bedrooms, three toilets and baths, balcony, porch, lanai and maid's room.

• **Emerald.** A sensible choice with more than usual space requirements, the Emerald model features roomy living and dining areas and kitchen, family room, three bedrooms, a master's toilet and bath, two more toilets and bath, balcony, porch, lanai, deck, carport and maid's room. It has a floor area of 141 sq m on 132-sq-m lot area.

• **Ruby.** Offering gracious Italian living inside and out, the Ruby model features the most generous amount of living space with a floor area of 171 sq m on 150-sq-m lot area. It has a master's bedroom with its own toilet and bath and walk-in closet, two more bedrooms, two toilets and baths, family room, balcony, foyer, porch, lanai, deck, two-car garage and maid's room.


RESIDENTS can take advantage of Citta Italia's landscape.

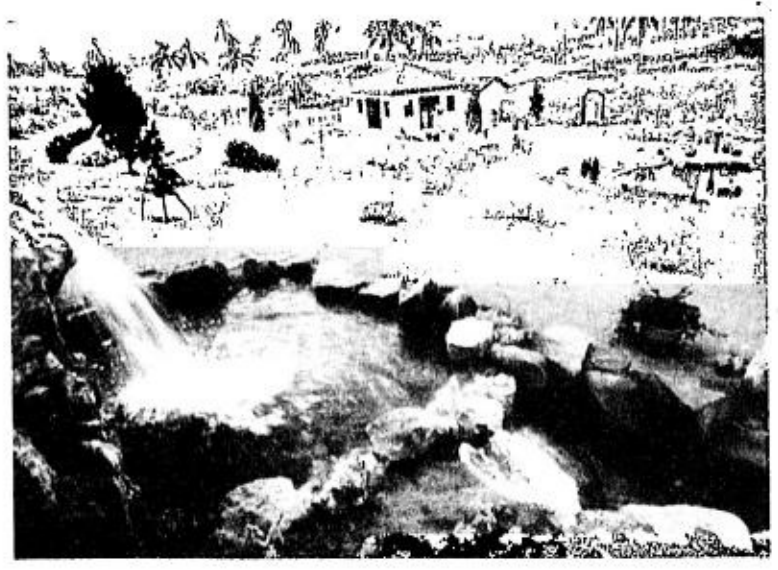
Already lived-in neighborhoods, both Citta Italia and Maia Alta are the biggest residential developments for their respective areas. Each also boasts of complete and exclusive amenities for leisure and relaxation as well as a church located within the vicinity.

Property previews may be arranged by calling Crown Asia South at 873-1614 or 873-6610 and Crown Asia North at 634-9001 or 634-2686.

PROPERTY

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

EL REFUGIO



CAMPO Verde campsite

Ponderosa Leisure Farms nears completion

By Charles E. Buban

PONDEROSA LEISURE Farms, Land Pacific Corp.'s premier residential flower garden community located in Silang, Cavite, is nearing completion. It is accessible via Tagaytay City or through the Sta. Rosa exit from the South Luzon Expressway.

According to Alfred Xerez-Burgos III, Landco Pacific's VP and strategic business unit head, the rest of the work will be completed in the first quarter of 2006.

Development of this 53-hectare property began in October 2003.

"We have completed several of the property's major amenities namely, the Plaza Bougainvillea entrance, Plaza Maria Luisa fountain and rotunda, Casa Ponderosa model unit and the three themed gardens (El Refugio, El Sanctuario and Campo Verde), thus enabling both our homeowners and visitors to experience the Spanish-Mexican garden resort ambience we are establishing here," said Burgos.

Wide green space

The El Refugio garden devoted much of its area to greenery with only a tea house, a small waterfalls and a pond as well as a viewing deck to adore its natural surroundings.

As the Ponderosa's first themed garden (designed by landowner Maria Luisa Perez Rubio), El Refugio beckons one to relax and enjoy quiet but refreshing activities, such as painting, reading or even group activities like picnics or afternoon tea.

The second themed garden, the El Sanctuario (also designed by Rubio), is more solemn as this is the garden where a "Mexicanized" version of Our Lady of Guadalupe is located.

"The grotto also doubles as a venue for meditation, celebrating a Holy Mass and even holding a garden wedding," said Burgos.

El Sanctuario also features a miniature pine forest where families can hold picnics or hold small receptions and serve as an access leading to a secret garden.

Outdoor activities

Campo Verde campsite is a spacious section of the property where one can enjoy fishing in its pond and grill barbecues in its several open spaces and picnic areas.

Landco Pacific constructed pathways that connect to various parts of the campsite. The developer also filled the area with forget-me-nots, star cluster and bougainvillas.

"Expect the remaining amenities including the Villa Ponderosa clubhouse, Plaza Maravilla (a commercial center with an outdoor events venue), and La Tienda village store (that will sell gardening and farming supplies, among others) to be completed in the first quarter next year," said Burgos.

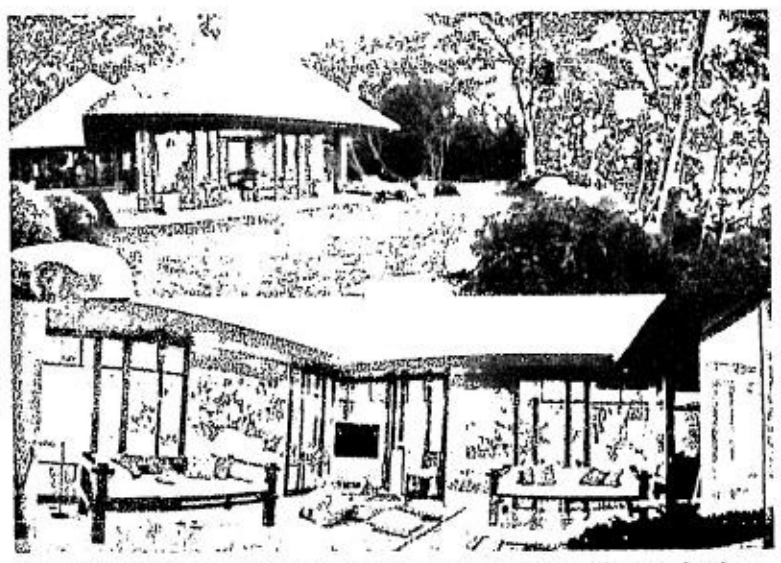
But even before this second leisure farming project of Landco Pacific gets completed, Burgos revealed Landco Pacific has already partnered with landowner First Agri Dragon Industry in developing the 17-hectare property located beside Ponderosa.

Ponderosa Heights

"This will be the future site of Ponderosa Heights where we will offer 160 lots. The place is expected to be spectacular considering the property is located in a much higher elevation than Ponderosa," revealed Burgos.

Since Ponderosa is envisioned to be a community in bloom, the houses must only occupy one-fourth of the lot—which averages 1,000 sq m—and must devote the remaining area to flower farming, vegetable raising and other forms of gardening.

"The uniqueness of Ponderosa gives an additional scarcity value to the development and the way we are marketing it, we are attracting a very specific market that includes overseas Filipino workers or city dwellers longing for a change in environment," said Burgos.



THE MODERN amenities of the new Anvaya Cove onsite marketing showroom provides a picturesque setting for those who wish to discover the beauty of Anvaya Cove set amid a backdrop of Nature perfectly preserved.

Anvaya Cove sets first onsite open house tomorrow

ANVAYA COVE, AYALA LAND'S premier leisure community project in Morong, Bataan, will be holding its first onsite open house tomorrow. This will allow families to see its breathtaking views and picture themselves living within the 320-hectare property.

Located at the southern mouth of Subic Bay and only a few minutes away from the Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Anvaya Cove offers a unique blend of both mountain and sea elements, the first of its kind to be offered in the local and regional leisure market. The development features the Anvaya Cove Beach and Nature Club, an exclusive membership club for shareholders and several distinct residential neighborhoods for those who wish to buy lots for their dream vacation homes.

What awaits guests

Anvaya Cove's first open house will be at the onsite sales pavilion from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Asian cuisine and refreshments, good Ibiza music and spectacular surroundings await visitors and families.

Guests will be given a tour of the site and will be treated to the wonderful views of the development as seen from The Cliffside and The Mango Grove, the first two residential neighborhoods offered in Anvaya Cove. They will also experience what life would be like in their own Anvaya Cove villa amid the luxurious atmosphere of the sales pavilion.

Says Marivic Añonuevo, ALI vice president and head of the Leisure and Lifestyle Communities Group: "Now, the public will be able to view firsthand the vision that we have for Anvaya Cove. It's world-class, resort-style living in a leisure community that's like no other.

Asian tropical design

ALI senior division manager Beng Abella explained that the onsite marketing showroom will allow open house guests to experience Anvaya Cove's unique design and architecture. The showroom typifies the unique Asian tropical design conceptualized especially for Anvaya Cove together with renowned local architectural firm Leandro V. Locsin & Partners and design consultant Andy Locsin.

Various structures throughout the development such as the Main Club Pavilion, the Lookout Tower, chapel, Laguna Suites and Spa Pavilion will carry the said architectural theme, characterized by quarter-crescent roofs, earthy colors and natural building materials.

"At the open house, we will give people a foretaste of the truly world-class and exciting things to come in Anvaya Cove through the actual structure of the showroom itself and through the experience we have created inside with both the interiors and our marketing materials as well," added Abella.

To join the onsite open house, call 892-3333 or 728-7000 before Nov. 27, e-mail anvayacove@ayalaland.com.ph or visit www.anvayacove.com. Interested parties may also visit Anvaya Cove's marketing showroom at Greenbelt 2 Garden (near Italiannis and Segafredo), Ayala Center, Makati City.

A Neighborhood of Friends

Amici

Crown Asia
Your home of choice

Within the radius of Daang Hari Road, Alabang will spring a community called Amici, the Italian word for "friend". Because like a true friend, Amici will give you and your family a complete sense of security and belongingness. Two guarded entry gates, high property fences, well-lit roads and a linear road will be put up to grace the community's interior. What's more, all homes along Amici's property line will be facing inwardly for better security and interaction among neighbors. This amicable atmosphere extends to its four model homes which will feature family-centered rooms and well accessorized kitchens and bathrooms.

Low monthly amortization starts at Php 12,000++

How to get there! From Alabang Town Center, take Daang Hari Road, enter through Southvale or through Springville Meadows near Molino Road.

Know more about Amici! Because like a good friend, what it reveals will draw you closer to it.

Call 873-1614 / 871-3882 / 873-8412

THE COLUMNS
Legazpi Village

A Romance of Urban Convenience and Residential Bliss

IN THE TRADITION OF THE Columns Ayala Avenue, Ayala Land subsidiary Community Innovations continues to break ground with yet another cutting-edge high-rise condominium right in the heart of the country's financial hub, providing young urban achievers a practical option to live in close proximity both to their workplace and to an array of recreational and leisure centers.

The Columns Legazpi Village is a 41-storey two-tower residential condominium at the corner of Arnaiz Avenue (formerly Pasay Road) and Amorsolo Street in Makati designed for the lifestyle of young urban achievers, it is characterized by a modern and exuberant spirit, that's matched with city club-like amenities.

The Columns Signature

The Columns Legazpi Village lives up to the "Columns trademark" of high standards of living. Not only does it share the invaluable convenience of a Makati Central Business District address pioneered by The Columns Ayala Avenue, it also boasts of the latest in architectural innovations that bring the vision of the urban high life within reach.

In many ways, The Columns Legazpi Village is not merely a prestigious new address. With cutting edge building technology, characterized by environmentally sensitive designs that maximize natural lighting and ventilation and the introduction of spacious lofts and bi-levels, it is a shining portent of freedom to live the life you choose, whether it's casual or sophisticated, fast-paced or laidback.

Such "smart architecture" can also be seen in the judicious use of space. There are abundant open spaces allotted for the enjoyment of residents - gardens on the podium and the roof deck, plazas surrounding the buildings, a pleasantly verdant theme echoed in the lobby units such as cafes, restaurants, personal stores and service outlets are provided on the ground level. Amenities include swimming pools, the "Fitness Hub", a 450 square meter gym & fitness center, a day care center, indoor and outdoor play areas for kids, jogging area and function rooms.

Constructing the Future

The 41-storey Columns will be one of the highest buildings in its immediate locale. Its architecture rises to the occasion, being simple yet certainly monumental, as befits two towers that are meant to anchor the place and serve as its centerpiece, encased in glass, aluminum and concrete that exudes an ultra-modern feel. Yet, with an abundance of landscaped areas that accentuate with refreshing foliage the building's environs and façade, The Columns Legazpi Village follows a Zen philosophy that translates to a pleasantly minimalist and relaxingly serene ambience.

With this spirit of understated exuberance, huge aluminum renditions of Bamboo artwork are used as a screen feature for articulating the buildings. This unique detail has become the signature of Columns projects, and is actually the first of its kind in the country.

Raising the Bar on Urban Living

Aside from boasting of top caliber architecture, The Columns Legazpi Village offers a wide range of possibilities for the equally diverse lifestyles of young urban achievers with its well planned units as well as exciting new ones like the lofts and bi-levels.

The fast paced, no fuss lifestyle of the modern bachelor or bachelorette fits the studio unit to a T, while young power couples may opt for the junior one-bedroom unit, the one-bedroom unit, or even the one-bedroom loft.

And even for young families, life can be a joy with spacious 2-bedroom units ranging from the single level 2-bedroom unit to a 2-bedroom loft/bi-level unit - all ensuring an ingenuous marriage of both practicality and sophistication.

The list of advantages can go on for days, but nothing says it better than Legazpi Village itself, as a vibrant melting pot of cultural, culinary and corporate life embracing an icon of architectural modernity and innovation that is The Columns- truly a romance of urban convenience and residential bliss, peppered with a sense of fun and stylish leisure.

Isn't it about time you moved to a place that allows you to live luxuriously and conveniently? Call us today.

Call 888.0000
Email cii-sales@ayalaland.com.ph
Visit www.communityinnovations.com.ph
Model units available for viewing at the 3rd level, Glorietta 3, Ayala Center, everyday from 10 am to 8 pm (Sunday to Thursday), 10 am to 9 pm (Friday and Saturday)

The Columns Legazpi Village is designed for the lifestyle of young urban achievers. It is characterized by a modern and exuberant spirit that's matched with city club-like amenities

Loft Living in Legazpi Village

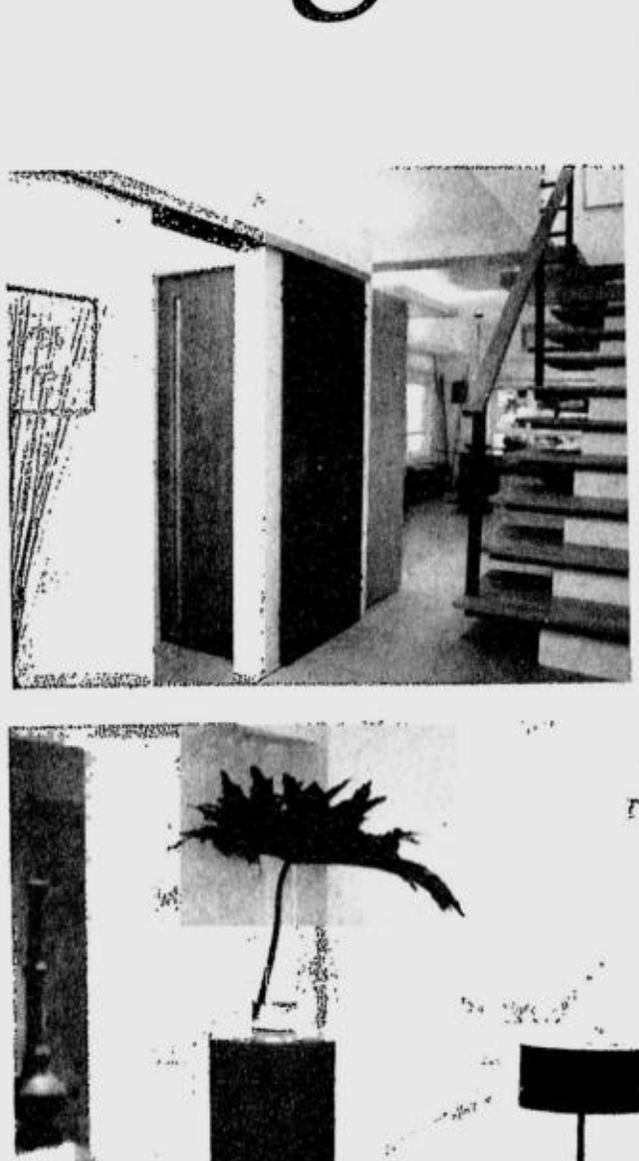
IT'S CONDO LIVING WITH A SECOND FLOOR and a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to live the urban lifestyle in exciting Legazpi Village.

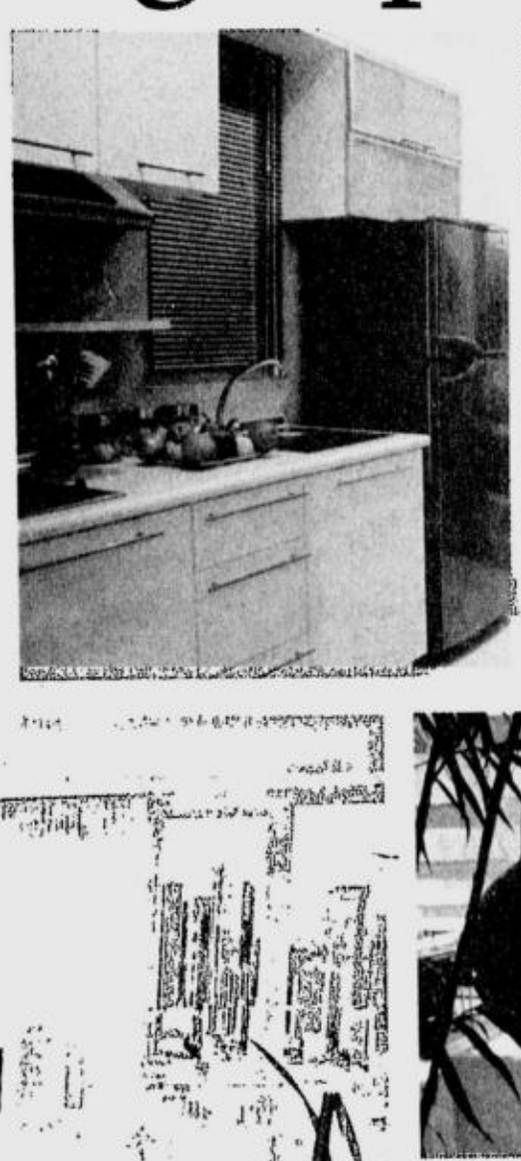
Rising at the hub of Makati City's hotspots is a two-tower residential condominium that is promptly entwining busy city dwellers in the trend of loft living. Through its bi-level units with artistic appeal, The Columns Legazpi Village provides a haven for seekers of alternative living spaces and lets them enjoy the freedom that most traditional homes do not provide.

Being situated at the upper floors of the condo, they give residents a more prominent view of the metropolis. Oversized bay windows allow a good deal of ambient light as well as glimpses of the dynamic city life outside or the world-famous Manila Bay. Towering ceilings provide more breathing space and better ventilation.

Apart from top-notch structural design and natural ventilation, The Columns Legazpi Village also offers a host of amenities including swimming pools, a 450 square meter "Fitness Hub", a day care center, indoor and outdoor play areas for kids, function rooms and many more. The Ground Floor will house an enviable mix of cafes and restaurants with al fresco dining.

The Columns Legazpi Village affords both luxury and convenience with easy access to anywhere in the city. And being merely steps away to Greenbelt, it adds to the thrill of urban living.





The Columns Legazpi Village affords both luxury and convenience with easy access to anywhere in the city

Location is Everything

THE COMFORT AND CONVENIENCE OF A metropolitan lifestyle is easy when you're in the newest high rise to ascend in Legazpi Village. The Columns Legazpi Village, the 41-storey two-tower residential condominium not only promises to raise the bar for urban living, it also has one more irresistible proposition: Proximity to one of Makati's most prominent landmarks: Greenbelt Mall.

Being a hop skip and a jump away from Greenbelt has its advantages. There is just so much to do.

It's a fashion maven's paradise with the perfect mix of shopping complexes that line the Greenbelt area. The best part about it is one never has to drive to shop. All the hottest clothes, shoes and accessory brands are spread in between coffee shops for relaxing and admiring your fabulous finds.

For the gregarious young urbanites, Legazpi Village nightlife is buzzing with everything - from hip bars and cozy restaurants to the liveliest al fresco dining in Makati. With a number of live music venues and ultra modern clubs catering to all tastes, Legazpi Village has got to be one of the most exciting locations for late-night dining and socializing.

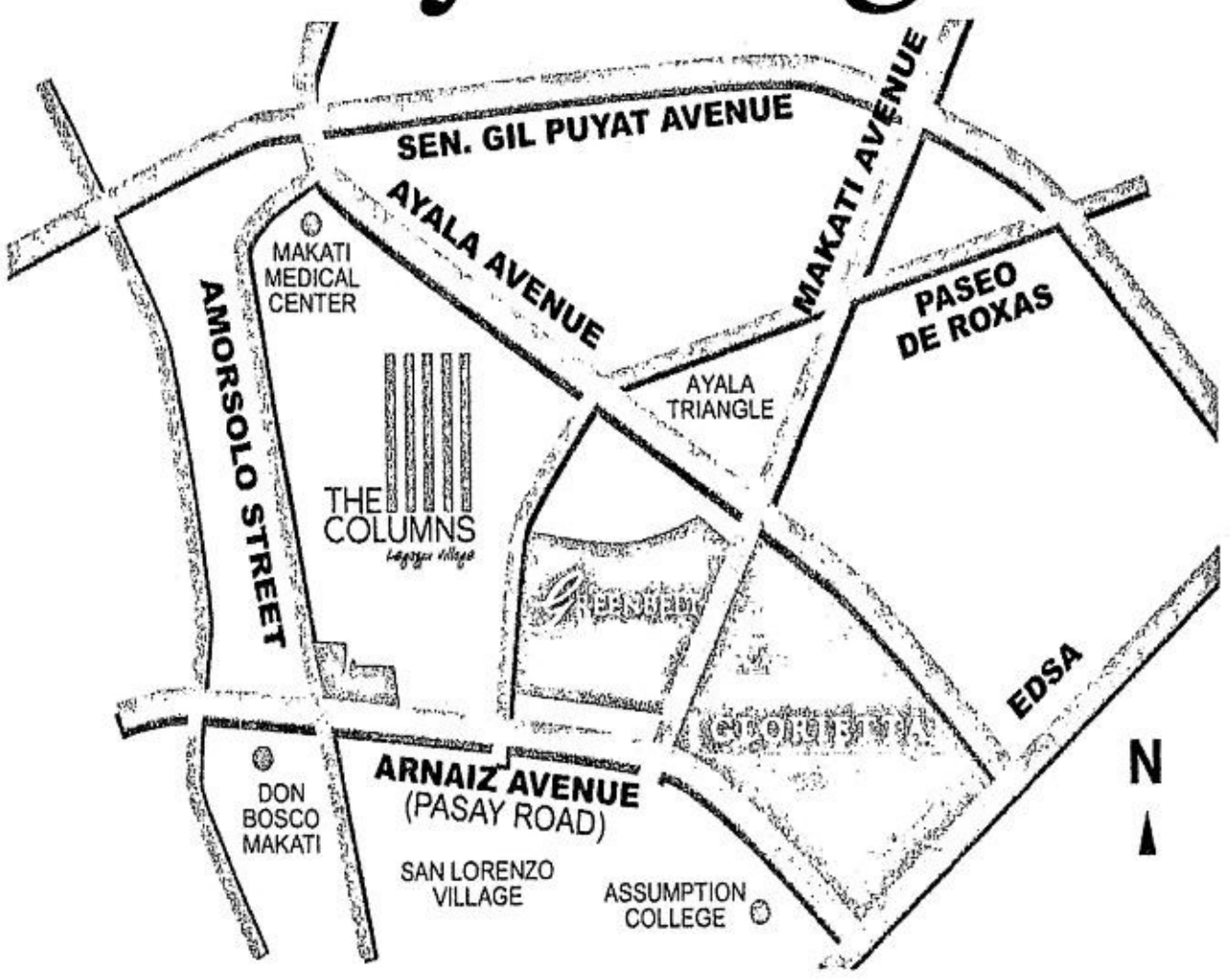
While having Greenbelt for your playground is the ultimate expression of metropolitan lifestyle, eventually you will have to go back to work. The Columns Legazpi Village, being in the middle of Makati's Central Business District, is close to places of work. You may even want to consider the option of walking to your office!

Needless to say, with The Columns Legazpi Village being strategically located, you are as close to work as you are to play.

Isn't it about time you moved to a place that allows you to live luxuriously and conveniently? Call us today.

Call 888.0000
Email cii-sales@ayalaland.com.ph
Visit www.communityinnovations.com.ph
Model units available for viewing at the 3rd level, Glorietta 3, Ayala Center, everyday from 10 am to 8 pm (Sunday to Thursday), 10 am to 9 pm (Friday and Saturday)

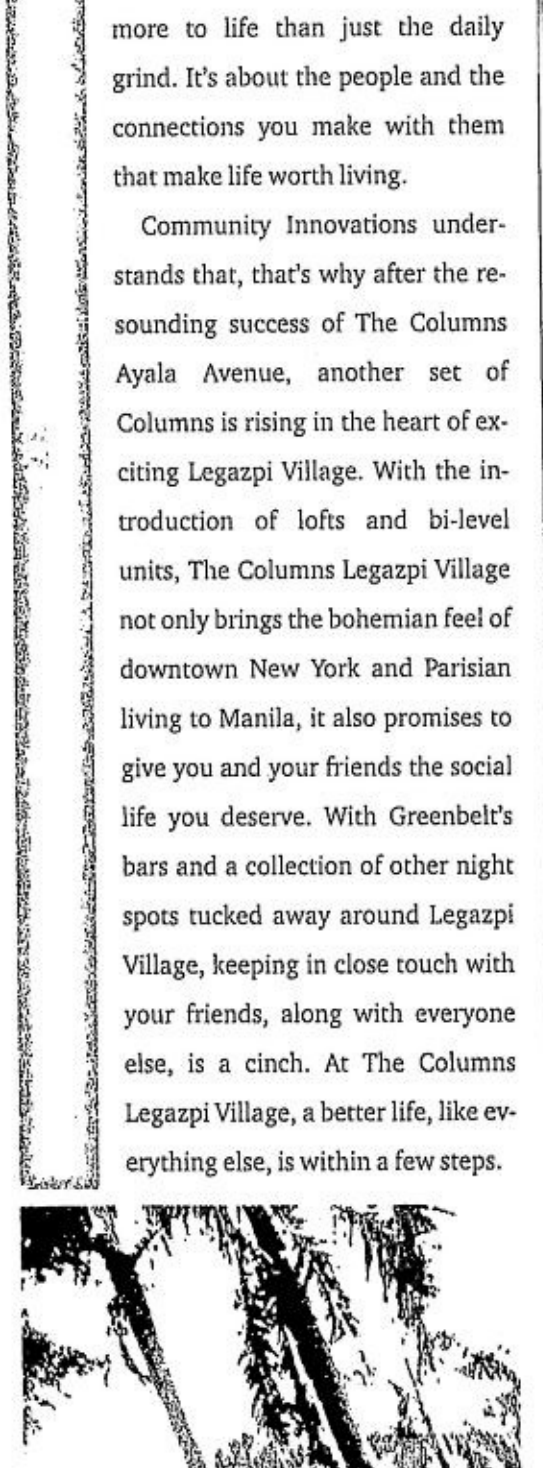
It's a fashion maven's paradise with the perfect mix of shopping complexes that line the Greenbelt area



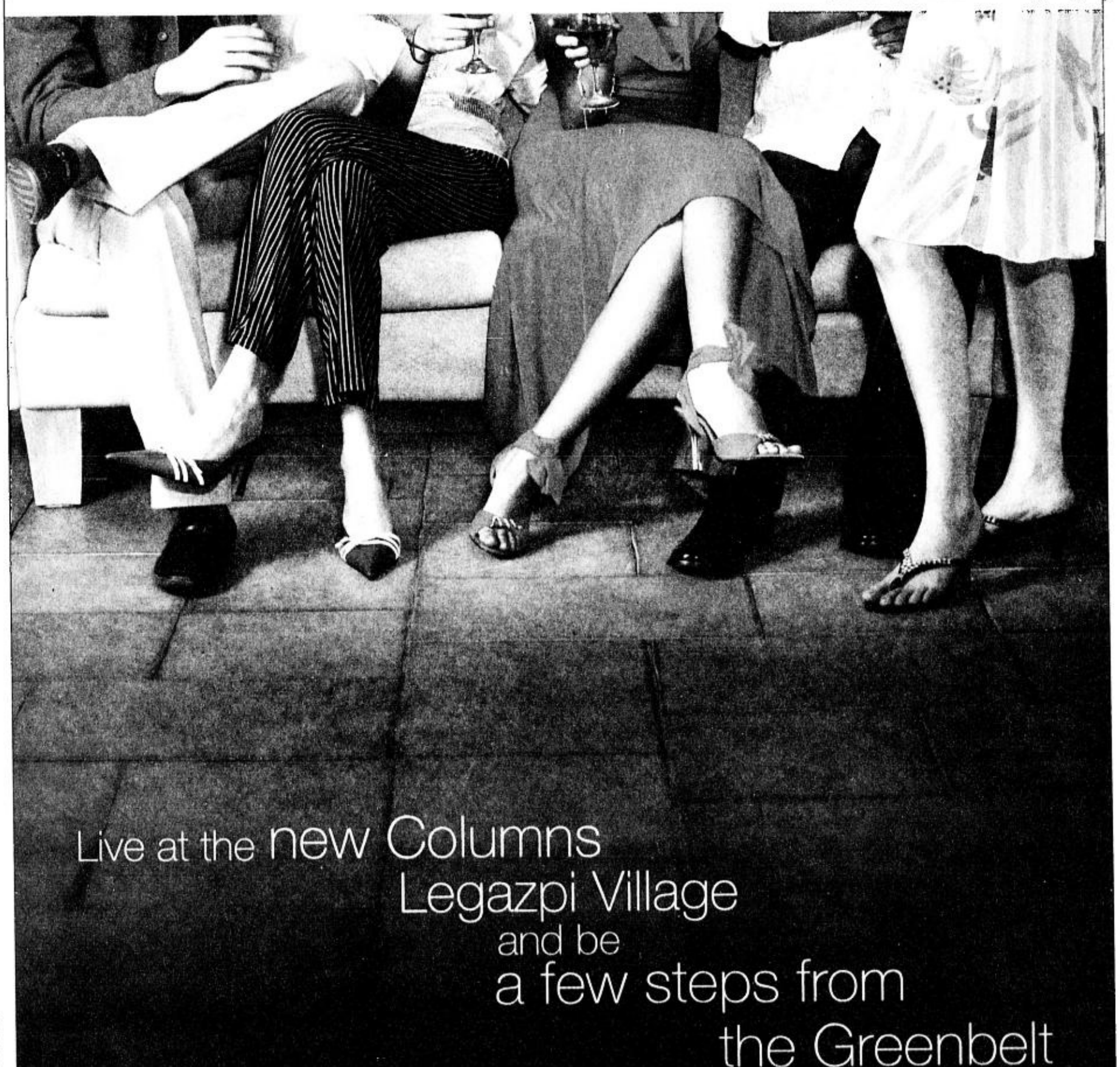
Live amidst Greenbelt and the eclectic flair of Legazpi Village

WHETHER YOU'RE A SOCIAL livewire hopping from one bar to the next or more of a laidback people-watcher sipping coffee on the sidelines, you know that there's more to life than just the daily grind. It's about the people and the connections you make with them that make life worth living.

Community Innovations understands that, that's why after the resounding success of The Columns Ayala Avenue, another set of Columns is rising in the heart of exciting Legazpi Village. With the introduction of lofts and bi-level units, The Columns Legazpi Village not only brings the bohemian feel of downtown New York and Parisian living to Manila, it also promises to give you and your friends the social life you deserve. With Greenbelt's bars and a collection of other night spots tucked away around Legazpi Village, keeping in close touch with your friends, along with everyone else, is a cinch. At The Columns Legazpi Village, a better life, like everything else, is within a few steps.



COMMUNITY INNOVATIONS INC.
An AYALA Company



Live at the new Columns
Legazpi Village
and be
a few steps from
the Greenbelt
social scene.

STEP 1. PICK UP THE PHONE AND CALL 888-0000. STEP 2. ASK ABOUT THE COLUMNS Legazpi Village

Live a few steps from everything.

HLURB License to Sell No. 13551

The 'Fitness Hub'

PICTURE THIS:

Four hundred fifty square meters of prime workout space including strength, cardiovascular, aerobics areas, sauna and massage room; a private gym that is never crowded where you can workout with friends, or concentrate on your yoga sessions and maybe enjoy a relaxing massage after. Here's the clincher: You pay no regular membership dues and it's just an elevator ride away!

For the busy urban dwellers who also need to use facilities in a professional gym but hardly have the time to do so, The Columns Legazpi Village has brought the gym to them. The 450 square meter "Fitness Hub" at the 7th floor amenity area of The Columns Legazpi Village is a place where you can get in shape and relax at the same time. Buff up your muscles, raise your stamina or find various fitness activities like yoga, pilates or dance classes. Even enjoy your very own Zen moments of silence!

The "Fitness Hub" at The Columns Legazpi Village is bigger than the usual gyms being provided in existing residential condominiums in the Makati Central Business District. It has a complete selection of the latest equipment, fitness classes and relaxation services. Plus, it is fully staffed and maintained by one of the country's foremost property management companies, the Ayala Property Management Corporation.

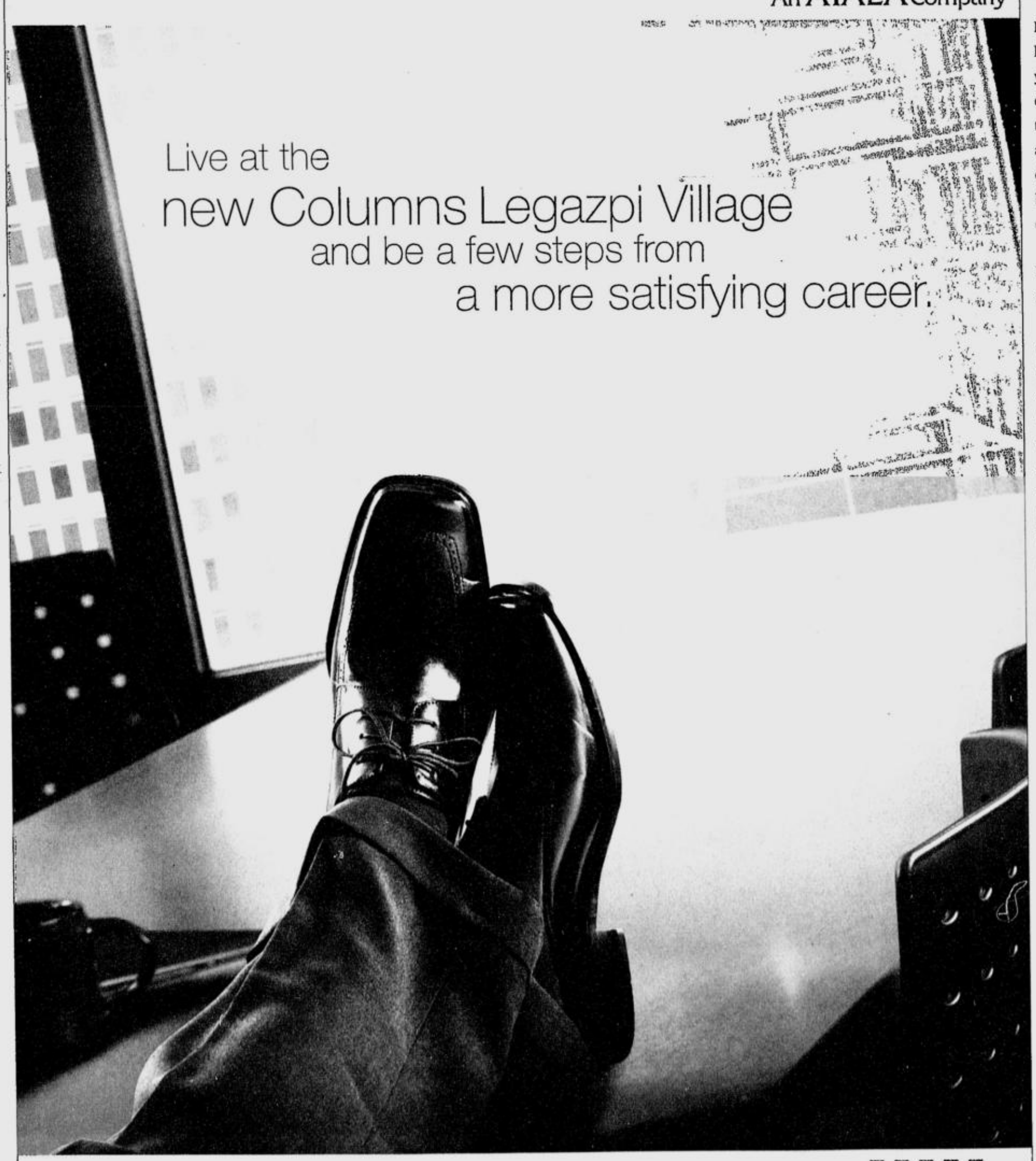
The "Fitness Hub" is one of the many innovations, designed by Community Innovations, specifically for the professional urbanite who just has to be in the middle of everything. If this sounds like you, come visit us so you can experience how having an entire building designed for you feels.

Isn't it about time you moved to a place that allows you to live luxuriously and conveniently? Call us today.

For the busy urban dwellers who also need to use facilities in a professional gym but hardly have the time to do so,
The Columns Legazpi Village has brought the gym to them

COMMUNITY INNOVATIONS INC.
An AYALA Company

Live at the
new Columns Legazpi Village
and be a few steps from
a more satisfying career.



Convenience Beyond Description

IF YOU'RE LIKE THOUSANDS OF hardworking urbanites, working your way to the top can be a big challenge. But if you've ever felt the sheer bliss of a job well done and the promise of another great day at work, you know there are bigger things than the little hassles of the daily grind.

Still, you just know life could be better. And you couldn't be more right.

That's what Community Innovations is all about. After its resounding success with The Columns Ayala Avenue, Community Innovations is breaking ground with a new set of Columns rising in the heart of exciting Legazpi Village. With the introduction of lofts and bi-level units, The Columns Legazpi Village not only revolutionizes the definition of urban living, it promises to change how you live your life. With the Makati Central Business District practically next door, going to work can literally be a walk in the park. And less time on the road means more time for things that really matter to you, whether it's rushing to close that deal or trying to squeeze in a gym session, or even just looking for a place to unwind and recharge. At The Columns Legazpi Village, a better life, like everything else, is within a few steps.

Call 888.0000
Email cii-sales@ayalaland.com.ph
Visit www.communityinnovations.com.ph
Model units available for viewing at the 3rd level, Glorietta 3, Ayala Center, everyday from 10 am to 8 pm (Sunday to Thursday), 10 am to 9 pm (Friday and Saturday)

That's what Community Innovations is all about. After its resounding success with The Columns Ayala Avenue, it is breaking ground with a new set of Columns rising in the heart of exciting Legazpi Village

STEP 1. PICK UP THE PHONE AND CALL 888-0000. STEP 2. ASK ABOUT

THE COLUMNS
Legazpi Village
Live a few steps from everything.

HLURB License to Sell No. 13551

Super

...r@inquirer.com.ph
...age/city/message to ...obe) or 283 (Smart)

...Editor Pam Pastor
...Director Tim Yap

...tyle . ...rban Living . ...op culture . ...ntertainment . ...ecreation

Super!Countdown

29 days 'til X-mas!

Maxi

Super! special on Maximo Oliveros page F1

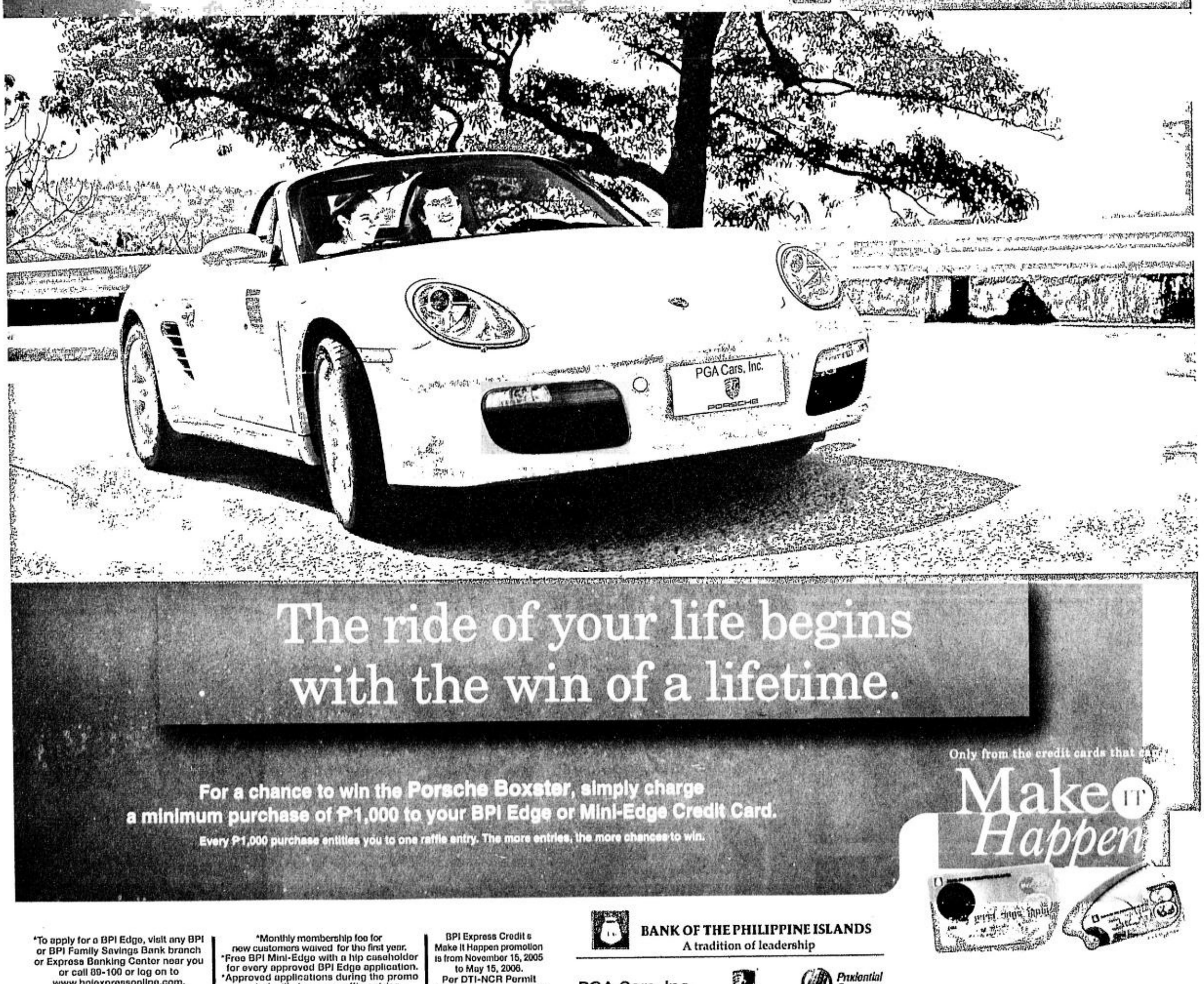
KC Concepcion In the LV store in Paris page C2

Atom Henares 12 years of NU Rock Awards page E2

IMAX Why we like it big page D4

Produced by TIM YAP
Photography PONG IGNACIO
Grooming by XENG ZULUETA
of Shu Uemura
Cover hair: GAMMY and NATHAN LOPEZ in Kith Greenbelt

BPI EXPRESS CREDIT



The ride of your life begins with the win of a lifetime.

For a chance to win the Porsche Boxster, simply charge a minimum purchase of ₱1,000 to your BPI Edge or Mini-Edge Credit Card.

Every ₱1,000 purchase entitles you to one raffle entry. The more entries, the more chances to win.

Only from the credit cards that ...

Make IT Happen

*To apply for a BPI Edge, visit any BPI or BPI Family Savings Bank branch or Express Banking Center near you or call 89-100 or log on to www.bpiexpressonline.com.

*Monthly membership fee for new customers waived for the first year.
*Free BPI Mini-Edge with a hip caseholder for every approved BPI Edge application.
*Approved applications during the promo period will also earn raffle entries.
*Actual unit may vary from photo.

BPI Express Credit's Make It Happen promotion is from November 15, 2005 to May 15, 2006. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 6503, Series of 2005

BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS
A tradition of leadership

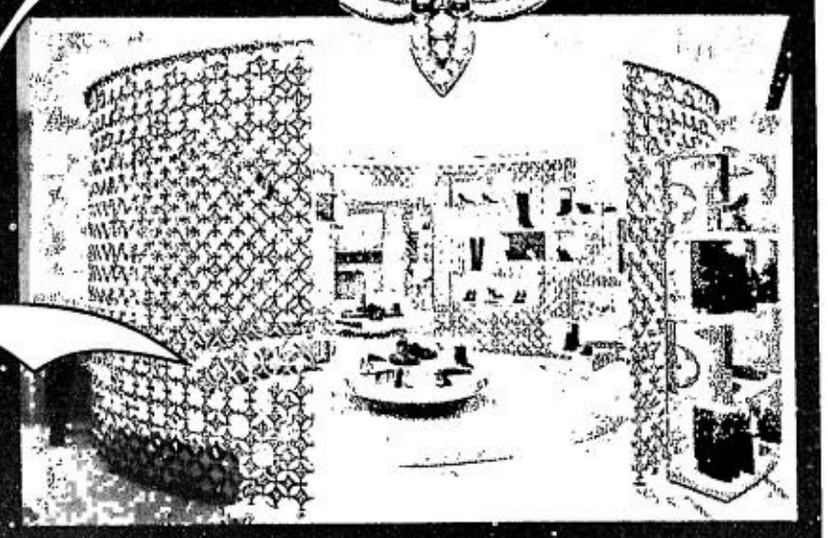
PGA Cars, Inc.
Sole importer and distributor

PORSCHE

Prudential Guarantee

OVERVIEW OF THE LV UNIVERSE. Top of the world, sir!

KC in LV



Text and photos by Tim Yap
Other photos by KC Concepcion

WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOU cross a blonde and a babe? More importantly, what happens when you unleash them onto the streets of Paris?

My weeks in the city of lights were spent with the perennial Pinay in Paris, KC Concepcion. On my first day, I had arranged for us to meet at designer emporium Colette. The store was already closed when she arrived, but we managed to sweet talk the doorman who let us in.

Then this beanie-wearing bloke came up to me and asked, "Are you the blonde dude from Manila?"

"Yup, that's me." I answered with a puzzled look. I then realized that this guy was Joel Madden, the lead singer of Good Charlotte, whom I've interviewed on air for Club TV. "What are you doing in Paris?" I further inquire.

"Oh, I'm with my girlfriend—she's doing a film," he said, and then suddenly, a gaunt blonde girl appeared by his side. "This is Hilary," he said. Hilary Duff, it turned out to be.

EYE LUV LV. Shady duo inside the LV store on Champs Elysee.

I knew she looked familiar. I was about to say that she looked great in "Mean Girls" but thank heavens I chose to just ignore the showbiz side and opted to go shopping, Tasmanian devil-style. And then another entourage walks in on us. Suddenly, my attention was caught by a tall woman and her bouncer looking escort headed our way. It was Beyonce. With Jay Z.

To think that was just our first night. The succeeding nights were no less magical. We went around Paris touring photographer Mark Nicdao, while we took photos of each other in all the city's nooks and crannies. It was his first time in the romantic city, and he just fell in love with it.

Part of our Paris sojourn was a stop at the pre-opening preview of the Champs Elysee store. Inside the Louis Vuitton universe, KC and I had bubbly fun while taking photos of each other (again). We alternated wearing the same Marc Jacobs tops—how very slumber party! And then we would walk the ramp and scale the elevators for more photo sessions. We turned the giant Louis Vuitton universe into our playground. Not with our credit cards, but with my Sony Cybershot.

It was also in this store where I learned of KC's fascination with trunks. And LV just so happened to be the best trunk maker of them all. Later, we saw the prime minister of Thailand arrive with his retinue and more prime Japanese buyers. This was two days before the official opening of the mega store. And they were buying everything!

Magicians were strategically positioned all over the multilevel boutique to keep the guests entertained. Not that the LV logo, the sweets and the champagne weren't doing it for them. Imagine KC's surprise when the magician gifted her white roses out of thin air! And then the other magicians followed suit, harvesting for KC three white roses in one LV store. We also went around the various work stations where the Louis Vuitton craftsmen were making everything by hand!

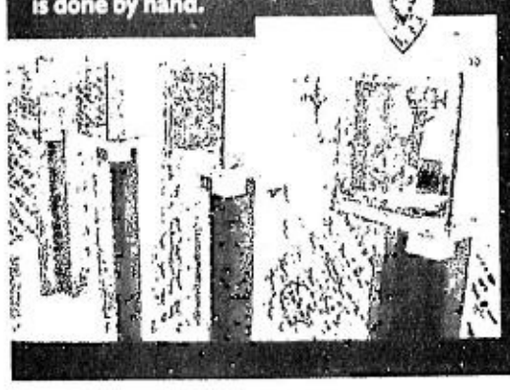
Speaking of the LV structure, I must admit I'll miss the giant monogrammed box that covered the building. But the inside of the store was a sensory jolt, which is true to LV's expertise of prestige, elegance and quality.

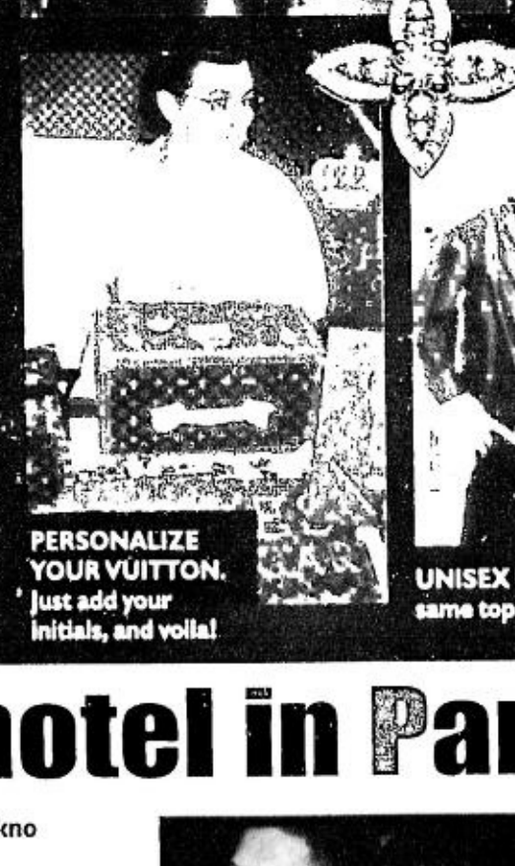
We ended the night high on life, lights and of course, LV.

COMING UP ROSES. KC Concepcion in a rosy mood.

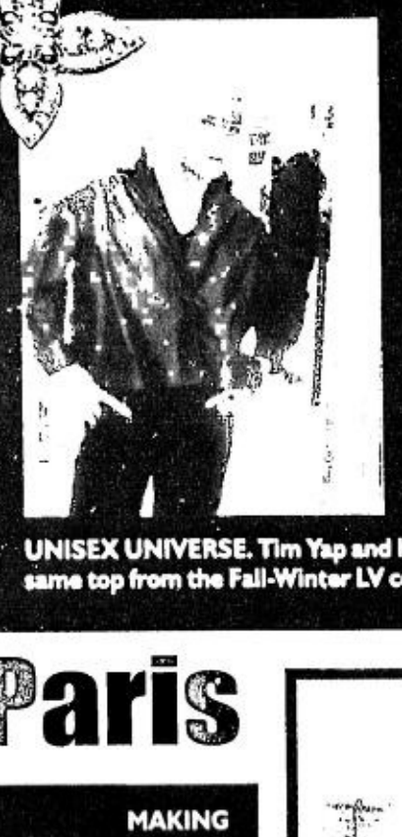
TRUNK lovers, salivate over this tower of label.

WATCH ME. At LV, even timepiece-making is done by hand.





PERSONALIZE YOUR VUITTON. Just add your initials, and voila!



UNISEX UNIVERSE. Tim Yap and KC Concepcion trying out the same top from the Fall-Winter LV collection by Marc Jacobs

Pinoy hotel in Paris

By James Gabrillo and Pepe Diokno

PINOY STAFF IN PARIS HOTEL. With hotelier Xavier Moraga

THEY STAYED AT HOTEL GAVARNI. Philip Abadicio, Carla Sibal and Michael Salientes.

FILIPINO ART IS WORLD-class. And we're not kidding. Hotel Gavarni in Paris tells Super! it will push Filipino art in the hub of art and culture by consigning Filipino artists and their works. These works will be prominently and proudly displayed around the interiors of the hotel.

The hotel is managed and staffed by seasoned hotel and industry specialists, most of whom are Pinoys who have moved to Paris and decided to make a niche for themselves in one of the most romantic cities in the world.

According to them, local art needs to be shown on an international stage because of its world class quality.

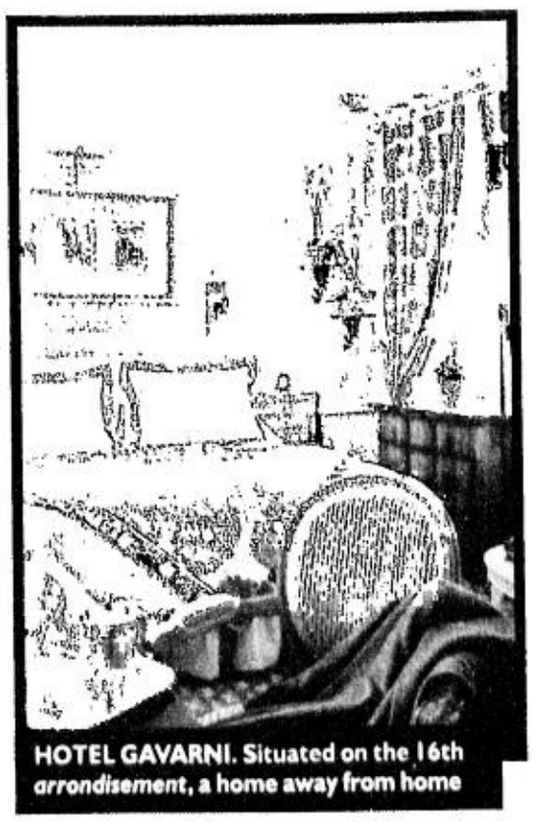
These efforts may seem small but they have a great effect on the scene, its movers, and the people who appreciate their output. This is one movement, and if more people do this, we have a revolution. Fingers crossed.

MAKING HIS MARK. Super!'s favorite Mark Nicdao with Xavier Moraga

Hotel Gavarni has an atmosphere that is both foreign and familiar. They've fused the sophistication of Parisian culture and tradition with the trademark Filipino affection and warmth.

Looks like we have a home away from home, folks!

Hotel Gavarni is at 5 Gavarni St., Paris France. Visit www.gavarni.com.



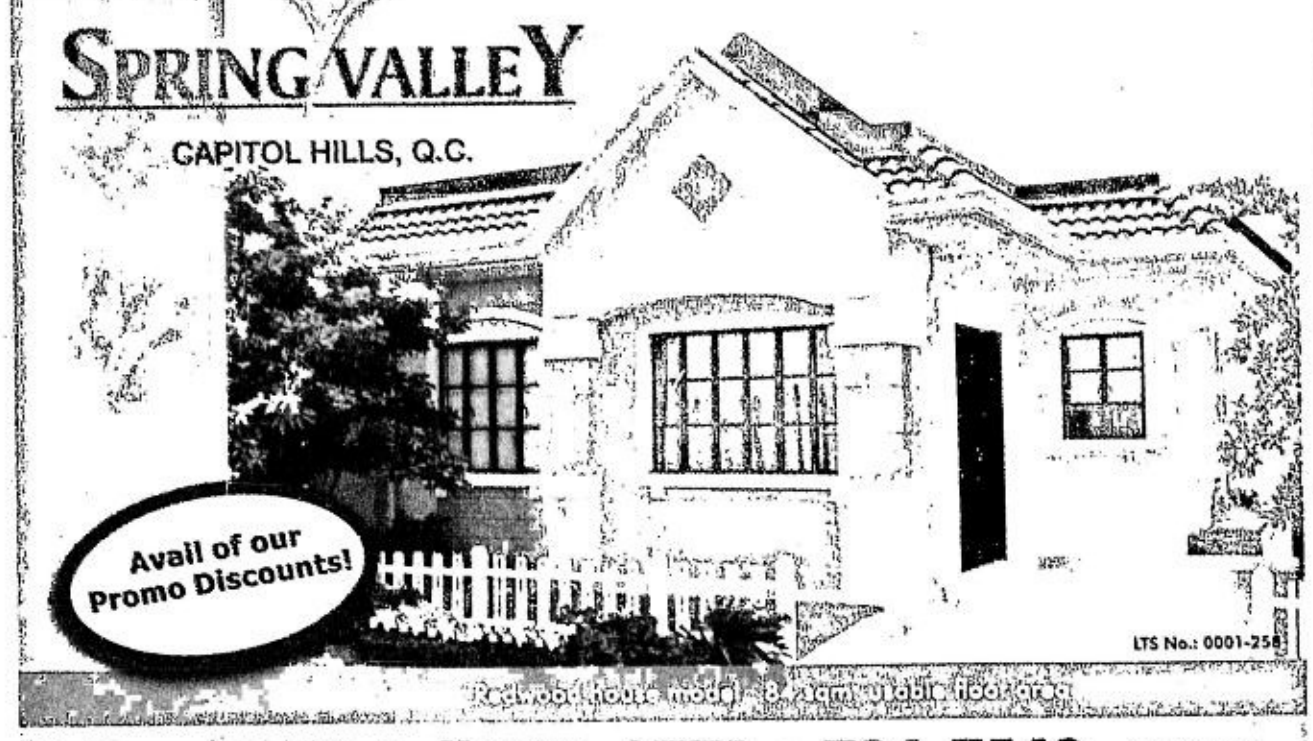
HOTEL GAVARNI. Situated on the 16th *arrondisement*, a home away from home

Inside the Louis Vuitton universe, KC and I alternated wearing the same Marc Jacobs tops—how very slumber party!

Affordability right in the heart of Quezon City

SPRING VALLEY

CAPITOL HILLS, Q.C.



Avail of our Promo Discounts!

LTS No.: 0001-258

Pedestal House model: 84 sqm. usable floor area

Interested? Call 721-0771 • 724-7543

A quality project of CORTE BELLA

The Metro Homes Division of FILINVEST LAND, INC. www.filinvestland.com

How to get there: From Commonwealth Avenue, turn right at Batasan Road until you reach the Batasan Road Extension. Turn left upon seeing the Petron Gas Station. Go straight until you reach Filhomes II Gate 1. Follow directional signs to Serra Monte Villas.

Sales Consultants and Managers are welcome to apply. E-mail us at hrd@filinvestland.com or call us at 727-0431 loc. 250.

OPEN HOUSE TODAY

at Serra Monte Villas Clubhouse • 9 am - 6 pm

Global Education Alternatives

australia
canada
new zealand
united kingdom

An opportunity for people intending to study abroad to speak with representatives of institutions from four countries.

GLOBAL EDUCATION ALTERNATIVES

A Commonwealth of Choices

Dusit Hotel Nikko · November 25, 2005 · 1:00 to 6:30 pm
· November 26, 2005 · 1:00 to 7:00 pm

idp EDUCATION AUSTRALIA · Canada · New Zealand TRADE & ENTERPRISE · BRITISH COUNCIL Philippines

FREE ADMISSION For inquiries, please call 816-0755 (Australia) · 857-9137 (Canada) · 891-4625 (New Zealand) · 914-1011 (United Kingdom)

Career Chic

You can fast-track your career all the way to the top with fantastic features exclusively from the Metrobank Femme Visa, the credit card for the working woman! As a wonderful welcome gift for the Metrobank Femme Visa cardholder, we're giving away one quarter free subscription to Mega Magazine when the card is used for the first time.

Also, Metrobank Femme Visa cardholders get priority access to career opportunities via their enrollment to JobsDB.com. This job alert service offers the juiciest job openings exclusive for Metrobank Femme Visa cardholders. Metrobank Femme Visa will also be conducting Career Femme Sessions on various women's concerns — career, family, culture, health and beauty, among others.

Metrobank Femme Visa cardholders are allowed to earn reward points that will bring them closer to bagging fabulous finds and interesting items, or may even convert them to air miles from Cathay Pacific, Philippine Airlines or Singapore Airlines! They will also receive Femme Works, the official newsletter for the woman on top. Get the latest scoop on shopping, wellness, career, horoscope, discounts, and fantastic finds!

And for those in need of thatcareer-enhancing fashion makeover, one lucky lady will be randomly selected monthly for a P10,000 shopping credit to her Femme Visa! That's more shopping money for that new you!

For more info and details on the Metrobank Femme Visa, visit your nearest Metrobank branch or call 8-700-700.

Woman on top.

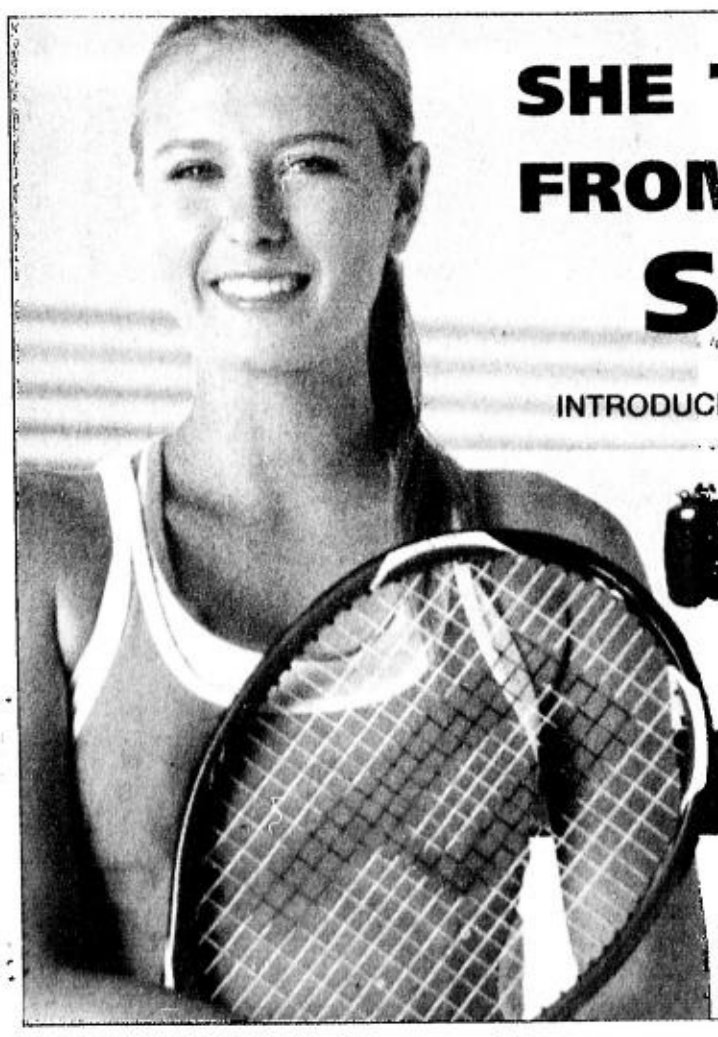
Now, a credit card that offers all the privileges a working woman deserves.

And [illegible] woman of the Metrobank Femme Visa giving away a free three-month to Mega Magazine and offerin echally for the career woman Call 8-700 700 for detail

Woman on top.

JobsDB.com WORKINGMOM

You're in good hands with METROBANK



SHE TAKES GREAT SHOTS FROM DIFFICULT ANGLES.

SO CAN YOU.

Canon

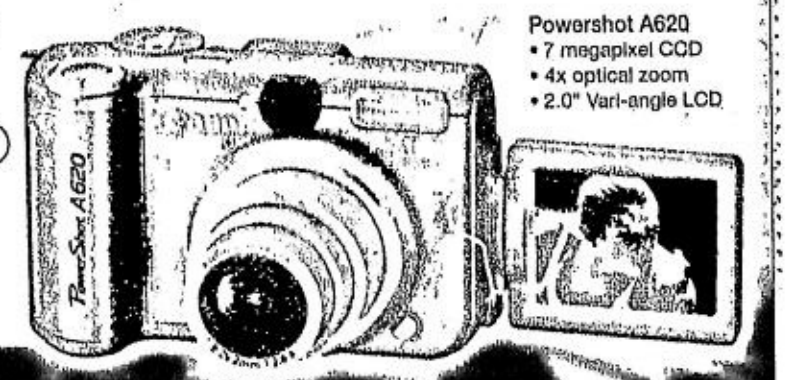
Delighting You Always

INTRODUCING THE POWERSHOT *VARI-ANGLE* DIGITAL CAMERAS

PowerShot Pro1
• 8 megapixel CCD
• 7x optical zoom
• 2.0" Vari-angle LCD

PowerShot S2 IS
• 5 megapixel CCD
• 12x optical zoom
• 1.8" Vari-angle LCD

PowerShot A610
• 5 megapixel CCD
• 4x optical zoom
• 2.0" Vari-angle LCD



Powershot A620
• 7 megapixel CCD
• 4x optical zoom
• 2.0" Vari-angle LCD

MARIA SHARAPOVA
Wimbledon Champion

DIGIC · PictBridge

Insist on an original warranty issued by Canon Marketing (Philippines), Inc.

Canon Marketing (Philippines), Inc. 2F Marvin Plaza, 2153 Don Chino Roces Avenue cor. V.A. Rufino St., Makati City
Tels.: 884-9000 • Fax: 810-9797 • info@canon.com.ph • www.canon.com.ph

PowerShot
A GREAT SHOT EVERY TIME

celebRATE!

NOW EVEN LOWER GPRS RATES!

At 33% OFF* starting midnight, you can stay up all night and surf!

Rates:

*0.10/KB (12:00 MN - 8:00 AM)
0.15/KB (8:01 AM - 11:59 PM)

Surf all your favorite sites as much as you want!

ABS-CBN INTERACTIVE · friendster · musiccentral · nmi

making great things possible

Globe HANDYPHONE

The Official Wireless Partner
Basta Pinoy. Posible.

* Promo period: November 11 - December 11, 2005. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 6407, Series of 2005.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2005

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

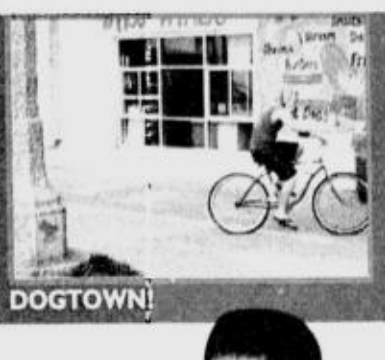
Super 2

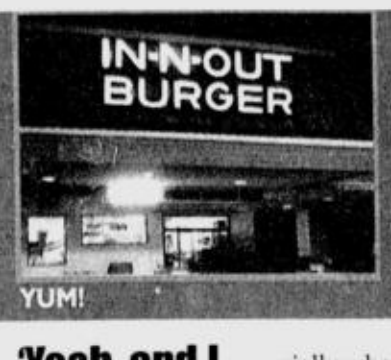
E-mail: super@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback:
Inquirer sup name/age/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

WORLD TRADE CENTER, 10:00 AM - 8:00 PM
NOEL the delivery bazaar
NOV 26-27, 2005
CHRISTMAS @2005 shop expo
All major credit cards accepted!

Just got LA'd


DOGTOWN!



YUM!

HASSELHOFF!

YO, SUNSHINE. Lost in Leo Carrillo Beach, Malibu PHOTOS: GINO DE LA PAZ

Age against the machine

Gino de la Paz

A SEACREST HERE, A SIMPson there. On any given day, Los Angeles is one humongous highway filled with Hollywood hobots, fad diets and humans who liberally pepper their speech with the words "rad," "stoked" and "gnarly." Yessir, LA is all that and a bag of baked Lay's chips. But then again, I'm way biased.

I recently clocked in some time in the Left Coast, home of Lindsay Lohan's implants, not so much to mock those paparazzi-prone peeps, but to reconnect with some of my middle/high school classmates and other homies I played Nintendo or BMXed with back in the day. Yup, I smell hangover!

As with all reunions, talk eventually came down to who's changed the most (or least), who's moved away the farthest, and who's popped the most kids out of wedlock. (Ooh, try unringing that bell, dude.)

And after chugging not a few beers (from not a few Beers of the World sampler boxes), the memories really started rolling in, especially when Evan and Jaron's "Crazy For This Girl" boomed out of someone's iTunes and a drunken, sob-filled karaoke death match ensued. Awww, the year 2000...

Uhm, whatevz.

Yeah, and I wish we could run to the sun and never come back. Yeah... "Run To The Sun," – N.E.R.D.'

To live and drive in LA

Though I still get carded whenever I try to buy smokes (must be 18) or alcohol (must be 21), my pals and I have definitely changed. So has the city. However, there are still some things that remain the same:

1. You need, like, a car in LA.
2. You *really* need, like, a car in LA.
3. You should be able to drive it, like, legally. If you're an adult below 5', you're considered handicapped, which means you can get a

JUST/ D3

GIORDANO
Pre-Christmas TREAT
30% off
on cash purchases • 25% on credit card
on all regular items (including new arrivals)
November 26 - 27, 2005
two days only
Series of 2005

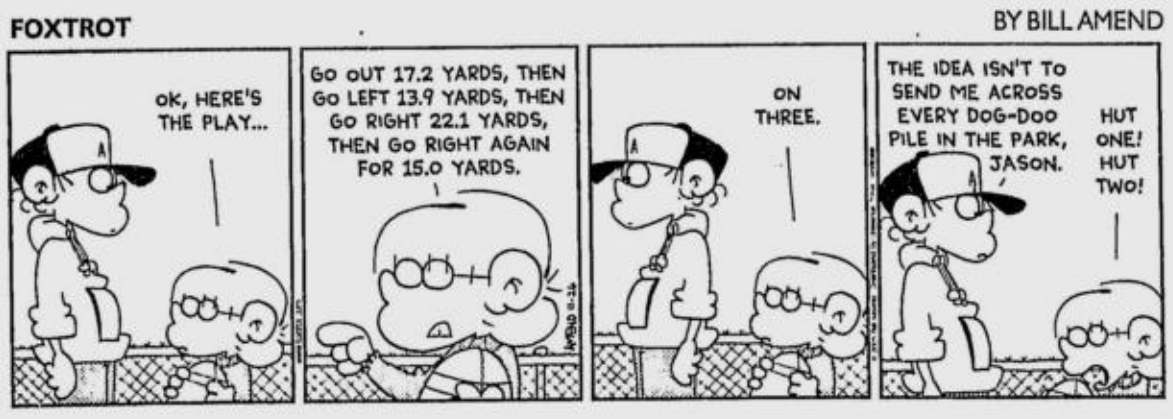
Call abroad for less than a local call!*

starting on the FIRST minute
to the TOP 10 destinations!

U.S. (Mainland) • China • Hong Kong • Canada • Singapore • Thailand • Malaysia • Brunei • Guam • Macau
A Permanent Service to all Sun subscribers. For Postpaid, enroll through Sun Shops or call 200.
* versus local Sun calls to other networks * In US dollars

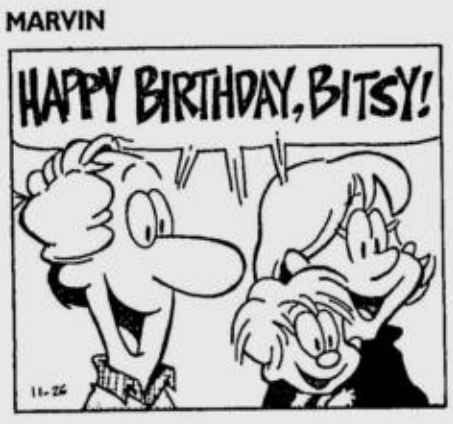
sun CELLULAR
Everything Important is Under the Sun

FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND



A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA

MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG



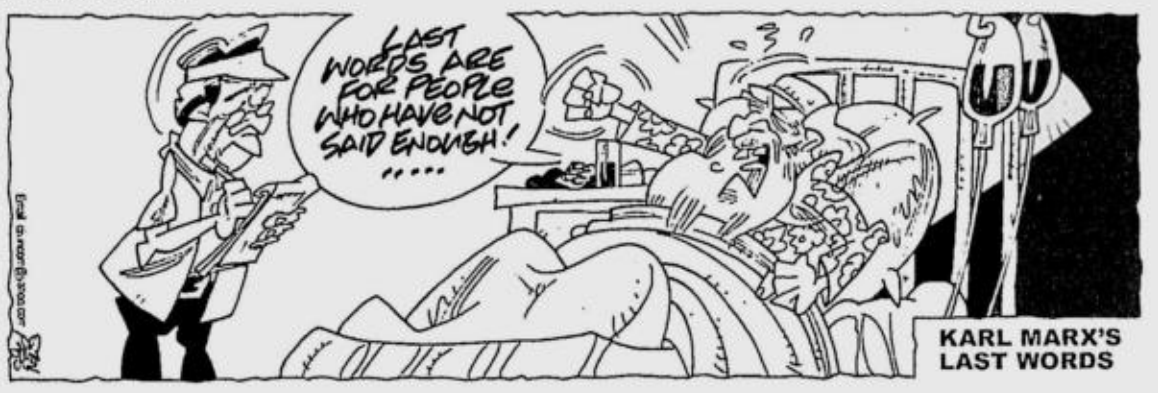
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS



HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: Many of you have special artistic gifts. You're also more realistic than most other Sagittarians. The things that sustain you are your goals and high expectations. You plan for the future, and this goal orientation keeps you on track. If you nurture your spiritual quest, you'll be wise. The year ahead could be one of the best in your life.
Birthdate of: Charles Schulz, cartoonist; Tina Turner, singer; Rich Little, comic/impersonator.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Today Mercury slips back into Scorpio. This backward motion (which exists only in relation to planet Earth) means you can expect cancellations and delays in travel, publishing and educational matters.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Ex-spouses and partners are back in your life once again. Look your best, and don't agree to anything you don't want to do.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Mercury is your ruler. It is now retrograde. While this brings delays and confusion to communication and daily tasks, it helps you to finish old business.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Old lovers (they might still be young!) are back in the picture. Think twice about getting back together with anyone who once rejected you. You deserve the best.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Family members and relatives are camped out on your doorstep. Stock the fridge. It looks like they're here for a while. Sit down, make a pot of coffee, and trade lies about the bad old days.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Silly little glitches to your daily routine continue to dog your steps. Lost keys, misplaced papers and books, forgotten appointments and confused communications boggle the mind. Have patience.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You might come across an opportunity to work for someone you used to work for, or earn money in a way that you used to before. Or, you might run into past coworkers.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Be patient with the people from your past who cross your path now. Scorpios can forgive their enemies (but they always remember their names).

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): When Mercury is retrograde (as it is at this time, mostly in your sign) you have an excellent opportunity to delve into the past. You can also finish up old business still on your plate.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Friends you haven't seen for a while are back in the picture. Make the most of this in a pleasant way.

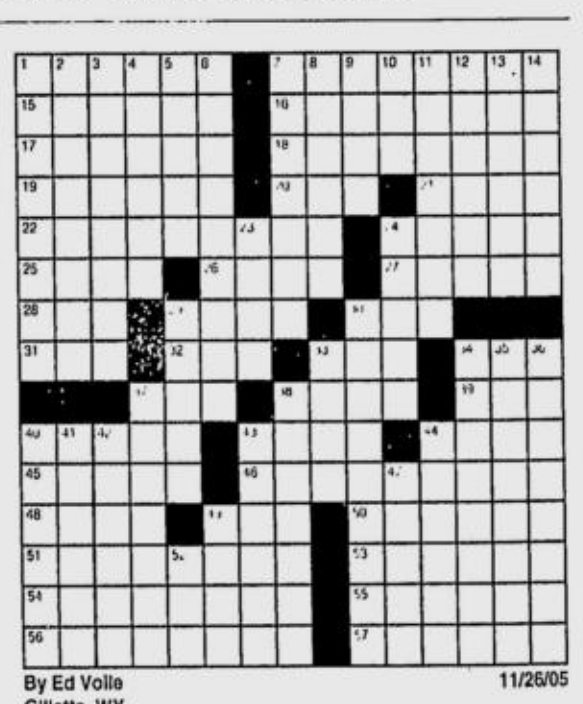
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Previous bosses and old authority figures are back in your world. Parents, especially parents you haven't seen lately, are also on the scene now.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): If you travel now, you are better off going to places you have been to before. Expect snafus and errors related to publishing, the media and school. (That's life.)

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Middle sections
7 Most demanding
15 Gandhi of India
16 Cloisonne creator
17 Intervene
18 Shrewdly
19 Chirped
20 Subway alternative
21 Currier's partner
22 Possible to deduce
24 Humanoid posture
25 Writer Bagnold
26 Groza and Gehrig
27 Incomes from properties
28 Jazzy instrument
29 Gin flavoring
30 Lobster eggs
31 Tiger's peg
32 Stroke gently
33 Cot or cradle
34 Slice of history
37 Melancholy
38 May or Cod
39 Part of AT&T
40 More mature
43 Spiral
44 Big Ben, e.g.
45 Auguries
46 College in Paxton, MA
48 Informed about
49 A-Team member
50 "Harry and Tonto" Oscar winner
51 Foolproof
53 Salad vegetable
54 Musical intervals
55 Mob member
56 Driver's restraint
57 Woodland gods

DOWN
1 Most frail
2 Sensory appendages
3 French obsession
4 Used straws
5 City on the Moselle
6 Shod like Romans
7 Aquamarine
8 Takes place subsequently
9 Large winery vessels
10 Ostrich's relative
11 Pensioner
12 Side-by-side ones?
13 Pick out
14 Assignations
23 British trunk
24 Wear away
29 Trains to box
30 Stand-ins
33 Conrad of "Diff'rent Strokes"
34 Infinite period of time
35 Bullpen pitcher
36 Pacifiers
37 Mack of Keystone films
38 Struggle for superiority
40 Wakes up
41 Contaminated
42 Bradley University location
43 Student's cubicle
44 "Contempt" star Brigitte
47 Current craze
49 Planted explosive
52 Watch accessory



By Ed Volle
Gillette, WY

11/26/05

Friday's Puzzle Solved

R	O	T	E		O	B	E	S	E		F	R	O	G
A	P	E	S		R	A	C	K	S		L	O	N	E
J	U	M	P	E	D	S	H	I	P		E	V	E	N
A	S	P		V	E	T	O		R	A	W	E	S	T
			T	A	R	E		L	E	S	T			
D	E	M	O	N	S		H	U	S	H	H	U	S	H
O	L	I	O	S		P	I	N	S		E	T	U	I
R	I	N	K		F	A	R	G	O		C	U	R	D
I	D	E	A		I	S	E	E		G	O	R	G	E
S	E	R	P	E	N	T	S		D	R	O	N	E	S
			O	N	E	A		L	E	A	P			
C	R	O	W	D	S		D	A	M	S		W	H	O
L	E	N	D		S	H	U	T	U	P	S	H	O	P
A	N	T	E		E	I	D	E	R		P	I	L	E
D	O	O	R		S	T	E	R	L		A	M	E	N

(C)2005 Tribune Media Services, Inc. All rights reserved.

MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

Just got LA'd

From page D1

disabled parking pass, which means you get primo parking wherever!

4. You must have, like, average map-reading skills, at the very least.

5. It's still sorta definitely, like, an LA thing to put on your makeup, eat breakfast, read the paper, and talk on your cell phone while driving on the interstate. (Yo, ten-car smash up! See you on the 6 O'Clock News!)

Speaking of which, the interstate system can seem like a savage beast if you've never been on any of its 46,300 miles. But kids, just make "Move Along" by the All-American Rejects your default driving tune, load those cup holders with a couple cans of Diet Dr. Pepper, and remember these five tips:

1. All interstate highways are marked by blue signs with red tops.

2. The north-south highways have odd numbers with 1 or 2 digits, usually including a 5. The lowest numbers are on the West Coast and go up as they move east. For example, I-5 is on the West Coast, I-95 on the East Coast.

3. The east-west highways have even numbers with 1 or 2 digits. The lowest numbers are in the south and increase as they go north. For example, I-4 runs through Florida while I-96 is the northernmost route.

4. US routes are slightly different and I'm tired of typing so just Gizoogle it.

5. In-N-Out Burger rocks! Oops, this belongs on another list.

Lost Angeles

Because of its lack of a clear center, Los Angeles is where you can go to get lost and really appreciate the beauty of driving. (Remember the Beach Boys didn't sing about trains or buses that much.) I spent most of my time doing just that—getting lost, not singing.

Finally pulling myself away from the mother ship, a.k.a. my neighborhood Hollister store—forget Abercrombie & Fitch, it's all about Hollister now—I hopscotched my way through eerily familiar places and totally new haunts:

- **Rose Bowl Flea Market** (Rose Bowl Stadium, Pasadena)

Crammed with more amazing ephemera than you can shake a stick at, this swap meet is held every second Sunday of the month. Show up early if you want the pick of the litter, or late in the day if you're after low prices. I spent a good five hours there and carted home a The Thrills concert poster by Frank Kozik, a cross handcrafted in Mexico, and a badass tan.

- **Necromance** (7220 Melrose Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90046)

In the mood for dried bats? How about medical forceps? Bird skulls? Javanese flying lizards encased in Lucite? I was, and I got more than my fill of gothic eye candy in this one-off store. Very My Chemical Romance.

- **Third Street Promenade** (Santa Monica, CA)

A hideously popular (read: touristy) seaside consumer playground, the Third Street Promenade is three blocks long, cutting through Broadway and Wilshire Boulevard. If you're artsy, head straight to Henessy and Ingall's architectural bookstore. If you're a 6-year-old disguised as a grown up, park yourself and drool at the awesome toys and action figures at Kidrobot. If you wanna see celebrities, bingo! This is where they come to chillax. That day I saw Jack Osbourne. The week before, a bud spotted the cast of "The O.C.!"

- **Penny Lane Records** (Old Town Pasadena/Colorado at Fair Oaks, 12 W. Colorado Blvd. Pasadena CA 91105)

Open since 1985, Penny Lane has endured to become the oldest independently owned music and video chain in the Los Angeles area. Each of their five store locations reflects the unique character of the community it serves. Aside from selling posters, postcards, new and used DVDs and CDs—I bought a CD by bubbling-under UK artist M.I.A. here for half the price—Penny Lane also sells magazines, among them Giant Robot, a futuristic zine with a jones for Pacific Rim subculture.

Dream of Californication

Since weather in Southern Cali is generally pleasant all year long, you can get away with wearing T-shirts and flipflops during wintertime. If you're thick skinned, that is. Otherwise, you can always go hunt for some gear here, like I do:

- **Aardvark's Odd Ark** (1253 E. Colorado Boulevard Pasadena, CA 91106-1834)

If you wake up one day and realize that you really can't live

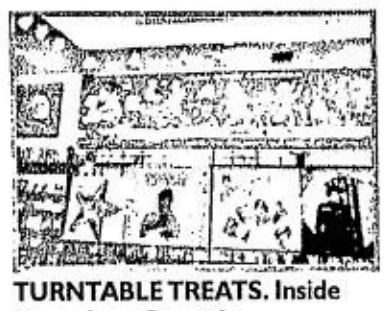
JUST/ D4

Beach slapped!

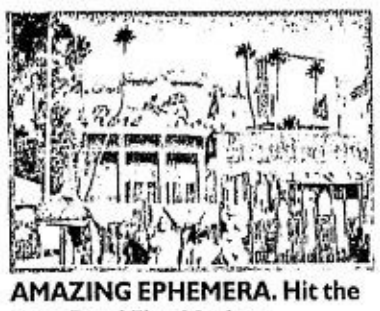
	MALIBU	VENICE BEACH
Go here to:	socialize and see celebrities	shop and gawk
Entertainment at:	Zuma (30750 PCH), between towers 6 and 7, at least according to Malibu High teens	every intersection along Ocean Front Walk
See people with:	surf boards, metal detectors, more money than you	tricolor hairdos, painted faces, and out-of-this-world clothing—or lack of it
Made popular by:	"Baywatch," MTV's Malibu Beach House	"Lords of Dogtown"
One last thing:	For the best surfing, hit Surfrider Beach next to the Malibu Pier (23200 PCH), but skip it if it's your first ride.	The Boardwalk is a walking 'n' rolling sidewalk skin show so bring your cameras.

OZZFEST, SORTA. That's Jack Osbourne's back, spotted in Santa Monica

BATS AND BONES, ANYONE? Melrose Avenue's Necromance



TURNTABLE TREATS. Inside Penny Lane Records



AMAZING EPHEMERA. Hit the Rose Bowl Flea Market

Infinite Possibilities with HP

New ink-based platform targets high-volume printing markets with record-breaking print speeds for the home and office

Manila, Philippines, November 16, 2005 - HP continues to deliver the broadest range of printing solutions for customers with diverse needs as it unveils its imaging and printing devices with breakthrough ink-based printing platform known as Scalable Printing Technology (SPT). Designed for high-volume home and business printing, the solution combines new levels of speed, quality, reliability and intelligent print features to greatly enhance printing experience and productivity.

With the strategic investment of around US$1.4 billion and five years worth of manpower, HP products have increased efficiency, printing 4 x 6-inch photos at a rate of 14 seconds(1) right in the comfort of their homes. Evidence that home photo printing is no longer the tedious and slow activity it used to be. In addition, HP is also introducing the world's fastest desktop color business for small and medium-sized businesses which is a testament to the printing platform's quality and speed.

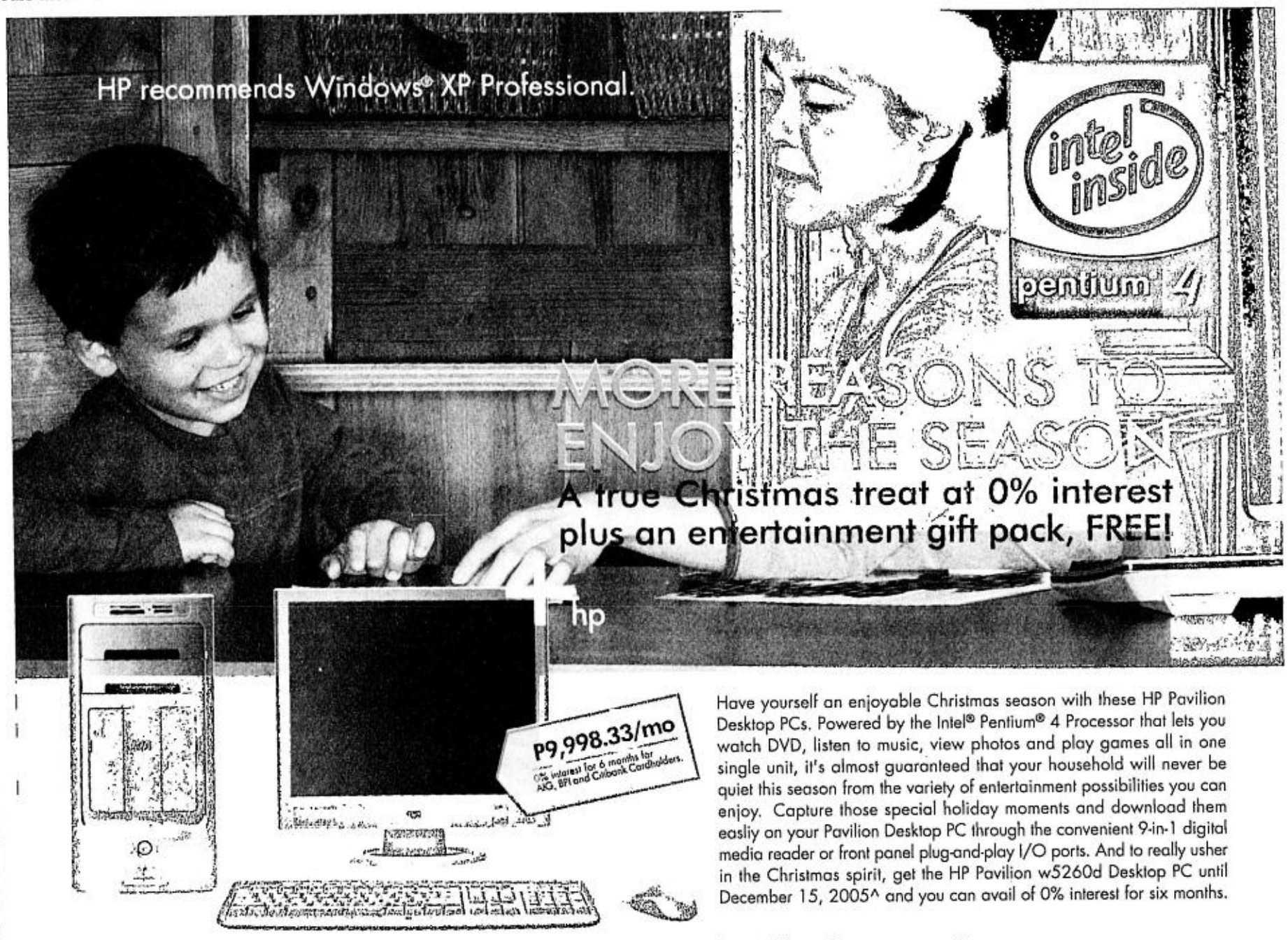
"HP's line of SPT-based products would definitely give our customers the fast printing speed and detail they deserve at an affordable price. In terms of performance and price, it would be hard to find a better deal. HP's scalable printing platform products guarantee performance with high levels of speed, reliability, quality and fade resistance, making it a truly value-driven product that is worth every penny," said Bernadette Nacario, head of HP Philippines' Imaging and Personal Systems Group (IPSG).

Innovation drives growth

HP's new technology is a breakthrough in the architecture and manufacturing of the inkjet printhead, resulting in not only a lower-cost product but a faster one as well. Furthermore, the sophisticated assembly of the new printhead enables a faster development cycle at an estimated 50 percent lower cost, giving HP an efficiency of scale for its substantial research and development investment.

The printhead components are fabricated as one unit via a photolithographic process, rather than welded together in post production. This results in the precise alignment of the chamber, nozzles and heating element, which then improves the accuracy of ink drop placement on paper and therefore overall quality of prints. This unique design also supports an increased density of nozzles, with 3,900 nozzles or more on a single printhead, resulting in a greater area being covered with each pass of the printhead. More nozzles and increased dot placement accuracy translates into faster, high-quality prints. Additionally, the new printing system ensures that users will never run out of ink mid-page - saving them time, ink and paper from having to reprint.

ADVT.



Have yourself an enjoyable Christmas season with these HP Pavilion Desktop PCs. Powered by the Intel® Pentium® 4 Processor that lets you watch DVD, listen to music, view photos and play games all in one single unit, it's almost guaranteed that your household will never be quiet this season from the variety of entertainment possibilities you can enjoy. Capture those special holiday moments and download them easliy on your Pavilion Desktop PC through the convenient 9-in-1 digital media reader or front panel plug-and-play I/O ports. And to really usher in the Christmas spirit, get the HP Pavilion w5260d Desktop PC until December 15, 2005^ and you can avail of 0% interest for six months.

P59,990 HP PAVILION w5260d DESKTOP PC

- Intel® Pentium® 4 Processor 519* (1MB L2 Cache, 3.06GHz, 533MHz FSB)
- Genuine Windows® XP Home
- Intel® 915P Chipset
- 256MB DDR
- 160GB Serial ATA hard drive at 7200RPM
- LightScribe Double Layer DVD±RW
- ATI Radeon X300SE 128MB Graphics Card
- ITU V.90 K56 flex modem
- HP De Luxe Multimedia keyboard and Mouse
- 9-in-1 Digital Media Reader
- 17" (43.18cm) LCD Monitor

This HP Pavilion Desktop PC features:

Convenient plug-and-play I/O port

Versatile 9-in-1 digital media reader

Upgrade your viewing experience on these desktops when you upgrade the HP 17"(43.18cm) CRT Monitor to LCD Monitors:

Upgrade the HP 17"(43.18cm) CRT Monitor to:
- HP 15" (38.1cm) LCD Monitor *, P6,000.00 or;
- HP 17" (43.18cm) LCD Monitor **, P9,000.00

*HP 15" LCD Monitor SRP: P13,990.00
**HP 17" LCD Monitor SRP: P16,990.00

P39,990 HP PAVILION a1228d DESKTOP PC

- Intel® Pentium® 4 Processor 519* (1MB L2 Cache, 3.06GHz, 533MHz FSB)
- Genuine Windows® XP Home
- Intel® 915GV Chipset
- 256MB DDR
- 80 GB Serial ATA hard drive at 7200RPM
- CD-RW/DVD Combo Drive
- Integrated Intel® High Definition Audio, 7.1 Surround Sound Ready
- Integrated 10/100 BaseT network interface (Broadband Ready)
- ITU V.90 K56 flex modem, data/fax only (33.6Kbps send/download up to 56Kbps/14.4Kbps fax)
- HP De Luxe Multimedia keyboard and Mouse
- 9-in-1 Digital Media Reader
- 17" (43.18cm) CRT Monitor

Get this FREE HP digital entertainment pack when you buy the HP Pavilion a1228d Desktop PC from Nov. 26 to Dec. 15,2005:

HP Backpack · Game Controller · Creative Sierra headset and microphone · Mousepad · CD case · 5 CD media

See the future of digital entertainment.
Visit the HP Experience Roadshow at the SM Cyberzone - Level 4, SM Megamall Bldg. B from Dec. 1 to 4, 2005, 10am to 9pm.

1-800-1441-6688
or (632) 867-3557
ph.contact@hp.com

hp invent

PARTICIPATING RESELLERS: Accent Micro/ PC Live - 6342417 • Complink - 6871234 • Electroworld 813-6184 / 633-1629 • PC Worx - 7251819 • Proton Microsystem / Octagon - 6359080 • TCA - The Computer Authority 633-1594 , 810-5090

©2005 Hewlett-Packard Development Company, L.P. Intel, Intel logo, Intel Inside, Intel Inside logo and Pentium are trademarks or registered trademarks of Intel Corporation or its subsidiaries in the United States and other countries. *Intel's numbering is not a measurement of higher performance. Microsoft and Windows are U.S. registered trademarks of Microsoft Corporation. The HP Contact Center is available Mondays thru Fridays 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m

^Approved by DTI-NCR. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0605, Series of 2005

We just like it Big

By Tals Diaz

Drumroll, por favor, as we introduce the first IMAX theater in Manila

EVER WATCHED A MOVIE AND GOT SO absorbed in it that you wanted to dive right into the screen, and drown blissfully in the chocolate river along with Willy Wonka, or fly among the fairies in Neverland, or sail on the Caribbean beside Captain Jack Sparrow? All right, Johnny Depp does have that affect on people, especially if you're, well, a female human being. Then again, there is one other thing in this world other than Johnny baby that has the ability to pull you right into the silverscreen from start to end, as if you were part of it all.

It's called the ultimate film experience—the IMAX Experience. IMAX has entertained and enlightened more than 800 million people all over the world with its crystal clear, breathtaking visuals projected on giant screens and state-of-the-art sound systems. It's a total sensory trip—you actually see more, hear more, and most importantly, feel more.

The best part about all this is that very soon, we'll finally have a taste of this IMAX experience. Starting next year, moviegoers in Manila will be able to immerse themselves in movies like no other, when the very first IMAX Theater will open at the SM Mall of Asia. It will be the largest movie screen in the Philippines, and will be the first to offer IMAX 3D, which is the most advanced cinematic 3D experience in the world. So you don't just watch a Hollywood flick, you actually become a part of it all.

The IMAX technology is all about its motion picture systems, which are by far the most advanced, most precise and most powerful motion picture systems in the world. Its unique "Rolling Loop" film movement provides the largest, clearest and steadiest pictures, enhanced by a specially-designed, six-channel stereo surround system composed of 44 customized speakers. So wherever you sit will be the best seat in the house, with this intense, surround sound experience.

Really, there's no other better way to watch movies. All the better to see Mister Depp, my dears.

Just got LA'd

From page D3

without a red wig or a pirate costume, this place is your best bet. Somehow everything in this vintage store goes with my classy and totally not fake gold tooth. P.S.: There are really three As in the store's name. Ha!

• **Modern Amusement** (www.modernamusement.com)

Though based in Costa Mesa and not LA, Modern Amusement is still quintessentially Cali. Known for innovative details, most of the brand's designs are stamped with the logo of a black crow, a nickname bestowed on company founder Jeff Yokoyama as a child growing up in Glendale. To me, it's California's answer to London's Paul Smith.

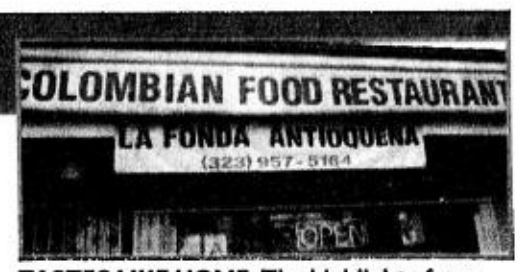
WORLD FAMOUS weiners at Pink's

• **Kilson** (115 S. Robertson Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90048)

Justin Timbo, the Hiltons and Colin Farrell are known to shop here, which is either good or bad depending on how you see things. Then again, how can you resist their hilarious conversation tees and premium denim?

• **James Perse** (3835 Cross Creek Road, Suite 12, Malibu, CA 90265)

Straight out of West LA, James Perse serves up feel-good casual wear with a distinct Angeleno vibe. I loaded up on his high-end hoodies, henleys, and chinos, since it's the basic items you should splurge on anyway.



TASTES LIKE HOME. The highlight of my food odyssey

Good eats!

Of course, one of the perks of being in a culturally diverse city is the range of ethnic cuisine on offer. For my Armenian/Mediterranean fix, I headed over to **Zankou Chicken** (1716 S. Sepulveda Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90025), where they dish up a mind-blowingly moist rotisserie chicken. When it came to yummy Hong Kong-style dimsum, though, it was Sunday brunch at **Full House** (1220 S. Golden West Ave., Arcadia CA 91006) that did it for me.

The highlight of my food odyssey, however, was lunch at **La Fonda Antioqueña** (4903 Melrose Ave. Los Angeles, CA 90029), a cozy restaurant known for its traditional Colombian cooking. After filling up on hotdogs at **Pink's** (709 N La Brea Ave Los Angeles, CA 90038), it was great to finally have stuff—*sancocho de platano* and Manzana Postobon, apple-flavored soda—I've been craving for since I left South America four years ago. Life is, like, so awesome. Tear.

WHEN YOU'RE HIGH. Radioactive Sago Project

VERUCA SALT-LIKE. Kitchie Nadal wants her McDo Twister Fries—now.

In aid of AIDS awareness

By James Gabrillo and Pepe Diokno
Photos by Daniel Tan

HEY SUPER! PEEPS, YOU'RE all invited to the country's biggest concert for a cause. It's this Thursday, Dec. 1 at the Fort Open Field. Let's all learn about staying alive through the universal language of music.

Over 30 performers and bands have pledged to join the MTV Staying Alive Music Summit for HIV/AIDS. The message is more than what HIV/AIDS is. It's a wake-up call, reminding us that it's real.

The problem with us is that all this HIV/AIDS talk has become so redundant, we don't mind it anymore. We think it'll never happen to us, that it's just something we see on TV and stuff. But it's real. It's there. And chances are you're connected to someone with HIV/AIDS.

GO Imago.

The MTV Staying Alive Music Summit for HIV/AIDS is part of MTV's Global Staying Alive campaign. It also aims to empower the youth to protect themselves, fight stigma and discrimination, and call on media and orgs to form their own response to HIV/AIDS.

This year, the MTV Staying Alive Music Summit for HIV/AIDS will also serve as the local launch event of the UNICEF and UNAIDS global campaign called Unite for Children, Unite Against AIDS.

This is why this is the country's biggest concert for a cause: Bamboo, Giniling Festival, Hale, Itchyworms, Kitchie Nadal, Cueshe, Kjwan, Parokya ni Edgar, Radioactive Sago Project, Rivermaya, Sugarfree, Sandwich, Up Dharma Down, Urbandub, Imago, and ... the Viva Hot Babes all ready to spread the message not the virus.

The show also features Super! cover star MiG Ayesa, who you all know from TV's Rock Star INXS, unless you've been living under the rock for the past two months. This Music Summit will be his first big performance in Manila.

Come at 1 p.m. and visit the HIV/AIDS awareness booths. Early birds get to win prizes too. Pre-show begins at 4:30 p.m., and the main show starts at 7 p.m.

Log on to http://mtvasia.com and keep watching MTV for details. *Ayos!*

BAM! No boos for Rivermaya.

UP, UP. Urbandub

YAMAHA
CELESTION SoundTech PROFESSIONAL AUDIO
PROFESSIONAL AUDIO EQUIPMENT
FINAL CLEARANCE
50 60 70 % OFF
ON ALL ITEMS !!!
VALID FROM NOVEMBER 16 - DECEMBER 31, 2005
YUPANGCO ELECTRONICS CORPORATION
339 Gil J. Puyat Avenue, Makati City 1200
Direct Lines: 899-9735 • 899-9757 to 59; Fax Nos.: 899-7777 & 899-8888
Toll Free Nos.: 1-800-1-888-7700 • E-mail: info@yupangco.com
www.yupangco.com

Whatever you're craving, it's all in here!

Open Parking Area

Begin here.

Walk through the Fiesta Market.

On the left near the Fresh Produce Section...

you'll see "Bigasan" which carries rice varieties from the regions.

Walk straight for more food stalls.

Enter the mall's main entrance.

To your right are kiosks with delicious deli.

And look for...

Return to the open area.

Head to the extension of Fiesta Market. Go around McDonald's & China Star.

For rice from every race...

Front of the fountain is the Local Delicacies Lane.

For cooking aficionados, proceed to Metro Market! Market! Basement Supermarket to get your fill of hard-to-find sauces, condiments and spices from around the globe.

MARKET! MARKET!

The fun is in the finds

Market! Market! is in Bonifacio Global City. For inquiries, call Customer Service Hotline at 886-7519. Developed and Managed by Ayala Land, Inc. Another Retail Innovation.

NU ROCK AWARDS 2005

A RocKer's Dozen

Flesh release:

1 Shola—does anybod eyed tranny walking Stunning, curvy ... and witl look ready to dance the "m shells for everybody!

2 Joey "Pepe" Smith— epitomizes rock star clad, wild hair ... and put t briefs" question in 1995 wh to accept the Lifetime Achi exposed his crack. No, not you in rehab.

3 Chito Miranda (Parol Touch My Birdie" wa Chito promptly drew a "bi eggs" on his chest, plus the the band's performance in wild until ...

4 Rosanna Roces ... Os body by opening her come deer in her headlight *pa... eto na si Mama!"*

5 The manga robot ico plexiglass. Given a sh think.

6 Pontri—this muscle-b wears tight fitting ou pressive physique. Outsize co-presentor he's ever sha Plus, he shows nipples.

7 Trish—NU 107's volu After hosting RA 200 ed by text messages from n to be "her friend." Still ... s tri's pecs.

8 Joey Mead—statuesq of many RAs. Coverg er Happy album. Gave Fran

By Tim Yap
Photos by Mark Nicdao
Grooming by Xeng Zulueta of Shu Uemura

NU HAS ALWAYS ADDRESSED (OR UNDRESSED) THE lesser publicized aspect of Pinoys. Rather than harp on the soft sentimental side (think acoustic, ballads and mushy tunes), this progressive, in-your-face media station has always chosen to take the harder, rockier route—make that the **rock hard** route.

It has always been at the forefront of the rolling music scene, showcasing talents outside the parameters of mainstream pop culture. Even their radio jocks are probably the most outspoken on the frequency radar. Maybe that's why they were put in the back row of the radio station meter.

Whoever placed them there thought that they were not going to make any noise. Well, think again. 12 years after king of rock radio **Atom Henares** built his tower, they are noisier, edgier and bolder than ever.

And by saying bolder I do not mean a boldie bringing out a vibrator onstage, nor **Rosanna Roces'** pre-Janet Jackson boob-baring brouhaha (although it forms a significant part in the rock awards history), but boldness in the form of experimenting. By giving airtime to unsigned bands, reaching out to more people outside Metro Manila to proclaim the gospel according to Rock and in true rock star fashion, getting rockers more drunk by giving them more than their fair share of Red Horse. It's as if they virtually jumped out of their station just to reach you.

In this Super! exclusive photo shoot, we took Atom Henares out of the board room and into Embassy Super Club to join hands with **MiG Ayesa**, as two icons of the rock scene face each other. One is the progenitor of the genre now, the other is the progeny, and the face of the future. Atom is the present, as he spreads the culture of Pinoy rock, and MiG is seen by many as the Pinoy rock prophet on the global stage.

Which is where we believe Pinoy rock today should be heading. It may have taken NU 107 twelve years to do it, but if we are to judge from the organic growth of the subculture that has broken out into a culture and into a movement, then twelve years is definitely a rocker's dozen.

1 1994 saw the birth of what is to become the biggest annual gathering of the finest rock musicians in the country—the NU 107 Rock Awards! The very first NU 107 Rock Awards was held in a place called The Music Hall in Annapolis St. Greenhills. What was meant to be a small gathering to give recognition to the finest people in the rock community is now the BIGGEST and most anticipated rock event in the country.

2 The first ever Song of the Year Award was given to Alamid for the song "Your Love." The song then went on to rule the airwaves and was in fact the very first NU 107 exclusive to cross over to other formats.

3 The Dawn is the perennial Rock Awards band. They've performed in all 11 previous Rock Awards and are slated to perform again this year.

4 The first ever to win Video of the Year was "Ang Huling El Bimbo" by the Eraserheads.

5 In the whole history of the Rock Awards there has only been one tie. In 1999, the judges deemed Wolfgang's "Atomica" and Sandwich's "4 Track Mind" as that year's Album of the Year.

6 Raimund Marasigan is the only individual with the most number of Rock Awards—for his work as a member of

Eraserheads and Sandwich, and as record producer for a number of rock projects with other bands.

7 The first ever band to win the Rock Awards' Raw Award was Fatal Posporos. The Raw Awards is given to the best unsigned artist of the year.

8 In 2000, the Rock Awards' "Punk's Not Dead" all-star tribute band performed a medley of past Song of the Year winners, of course in the style of The Ramones. It was composed of Myra Ruaro (Brownbeat All Stars), Louie Talan (Razorback), Diego Castillo (Sandwich), Raimund Marasigan (Sandwich), Zach Lucero and Aia de Leon (Imago).

9 In 2004, NU107, knowing the growing role of females in the rock scene, gave out the first ever Female Rock Icon Award to Ms Cynthia Alexander.

10 Before if became a rock anthem of sorts, Bamboo's "Noypi" was first performed at the 2003 NU 107 Rock Awards, even before the album "As The Music Plays" came out.

11 Despite a typhoon, 2004's Rock Awards was NU 107's most attended yet, with over 4,000 rock fans filling the World Trade Center.

12 This year's Rock Awards has already set a record of sorts, with the most ever nominees for Song Of The Year Award with 12.

SuperFriends!

AC Espiritu
I like to MAXI my? Wad of cash
I'm looking forward to getting the? Championship trophy in the MNCAA '05 season.
I hate: Tequila ... If i see another shot, I'll puke!
Email me at:ac_espiritu2002 @yahoo.com

Biba Galsano
I like to MAXI my?
I'm looking forward to getting a?
I hate:
Email me at:

Yoshi Uy
I like to MAXI my? Shoes
I'm looking forward to getting a? Gold gold tan
I hate: Hypocrites
Email me at:
yosh_uy@yahoo.com

Karen Bordador
I like to MAXI my?
I'm looking forward to getting a?
I hate:
Email me at:

Terence Lok
I like to MAXI my? Paychecks
I'm looking forward to getting a? Big hug from my girl
I hate: The political bickering in the country
Email me at:
lokterence@yahoo.com

Jai Antonio
I like to MAXI my?
I'm looking forward to getting a?
I hate:
Email me at:

Kate Bernal
I like to MAXI my? Bags
I'm looking forward to getting a? Surprise on my birthday
I hate: People who takes advantage to others
Email me at:
kate_bernal01 @yahoo.com

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

12 sexy NU 107 Rock Awards figures

remember this wild- backstage during RA 96? breasts that made her aglalatik." Coconut

the legendary rocker cool: Rail thin, denim rest the "boxers or en he crawled onstage evement Award, and the kind that can put

ya Ni Edgar)—"Don't a huge hit in '99, and d in a nest with two words "Hi Papa" during RA '99. The crowd goes

ng outshines every- blouse; the audience be- s. *"O, nakita nyo na si Pa-*

in RA '95—encased in wer. Auto-erotica ... I

ound NU 107 DJ always fits to showcase his im- all the breasts of every ed the podium with.

otuous First Show host. , she has been inundat- ale listeners who want he's no match for Pon-

ue host and presentor rl of Eraserheads' Stick- cis Brew a hug onstage.

ROCK NOW, ROCK TOMORROW, ROCK FOREVER. Atom Henares, rock royalty behind NU 107, face to face with MiG Ayesa, new global rock star. This Super! photo is a sign of things to come for the rock scene.

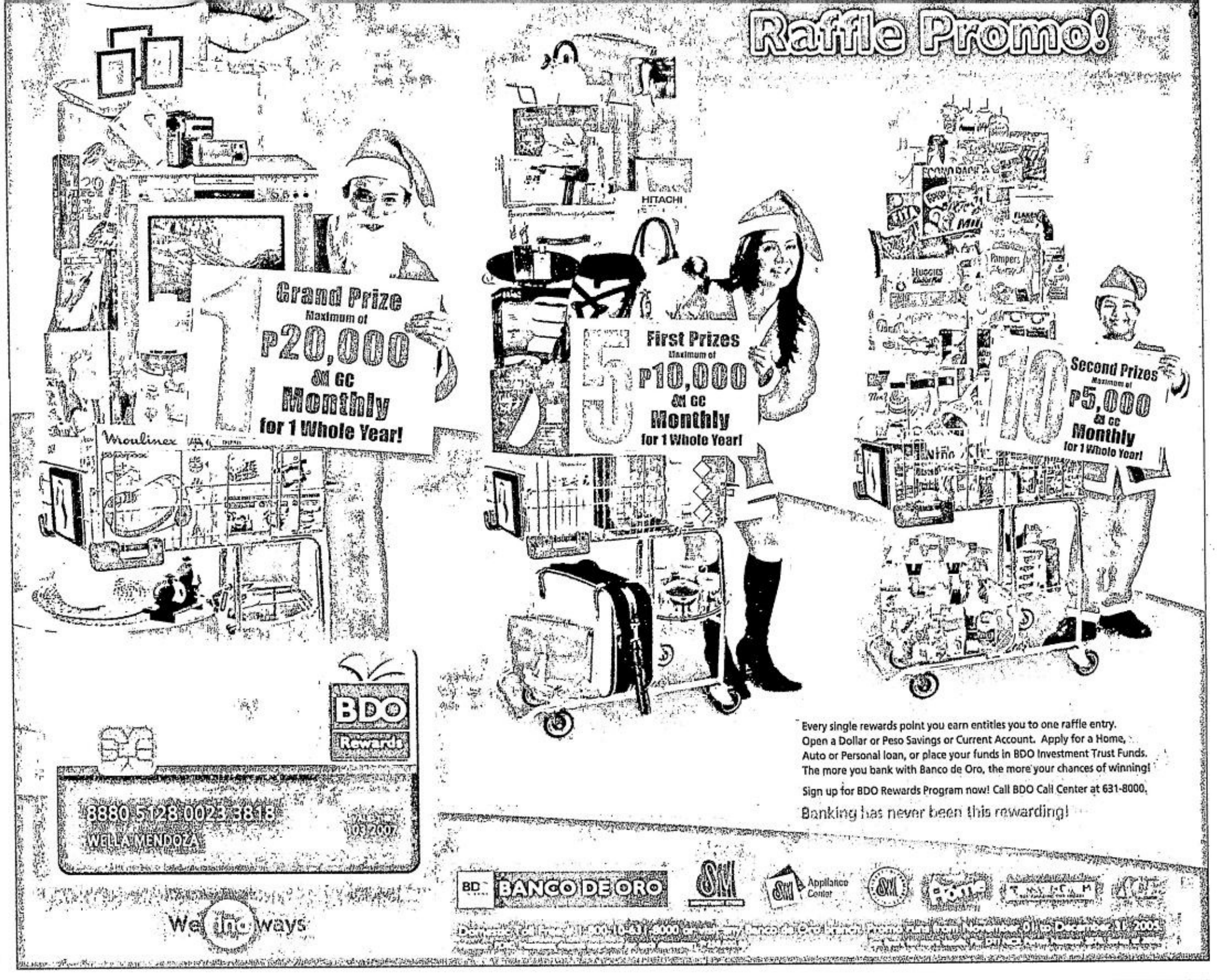
He nearly passes out.

9 9. Katya Santos—made NU 107's main man Atom Henares forget his lines as her breasts swayed like zeppelins during RA 2004.

10 Ara Mina—Pontri accidentally puts the mic too close to her lips. Imaginations run wild for people who taped the telecast. "Do ah luk sexy tonaaahhhyt?" Of course dear, you didn't have to say it ...

11 Maui Taylor—the pixie-faced sexy star's shoulder strap unfailingly falls off her shoulder in RA 2004. Crowd hoots. Till she opens Pontri's shirt. Crowd hoots louder.

12 Atom Henares—because he is. Very simply: No Atom = no NU 107 = no Rock Awards = no sexy guests. Everything has a source.



BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Anvaya Cove sets first onsite Open House on Nov. 27

Anvaya Cove, Ayala Land's premier leisure community project in Morong, Bataan, is holding its first onsite open house on November 27, allowing families to see breathtaking views, and picture themselves living within the 320 hectare property.

Located near Subic Bay Freeport and embracing a portion of Subic Bay, Anvaya Cove offers a unique blend of both mountain and sea elements, the first of its kind to be offered in the local and regional leisure market. The development will also feature an exclusive Anvaya Cove Beach & Nature Club primarily for shareholders, and numerous distinct residential neighborhoods for those who wish to purchase lots after acquiring club shares.

The venue for Anvaya Cove's 1st open house will be at the onsite sales pavilion from 10:00 am - 4:00 p.m. Asian cuisine refreshments and good Ibiza music, memorable conversations throughout the day await you and your family. Guests will be toured onsite and given a preview of the wonderful views of the development as seen from The Cliffside, the first and most prime residential neighborhood to be offered by Ayala Land in Anvaya Cove. The show room will allow the visitors to appreciate the property's unique features, which are its forested mountains and beach area.

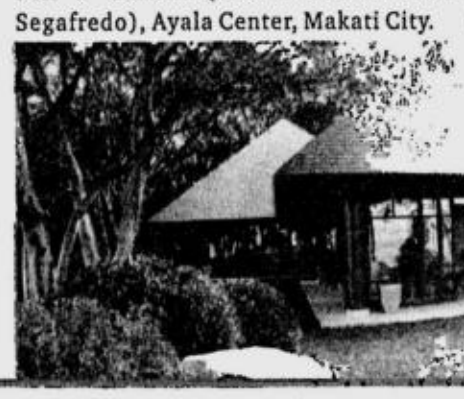
"Now, the public will be able to view first hand the vision that we have for Anvaya Cove. Its world class, resort-style living in a leisure community that's like no other," said ALI vice president and head of the leisure and lifestyle communities group, Marivic Anonuevo.

ALI senior division manager Beng Abella also explained that the onsite marketing showroom will allow open house guests to experience Anvaya Cove's unique design and architecture. The showroom typifies the unique Asian tropical design conceptualized especially for Anvaya Cove together with renowned local architectural firm Leandro V. Locsin & Partners, through design consultant Andy Locsin. Various structures throughout the development -- such as the Anvaya Cove Beach & Nature Club, lookout tower, chapel, overnight dwelling units, spa huts, and others --- will carry the said architectural theme, mainly characterized by quarter-arched roofs, earthy colors and building materials indigenous to the site itself.

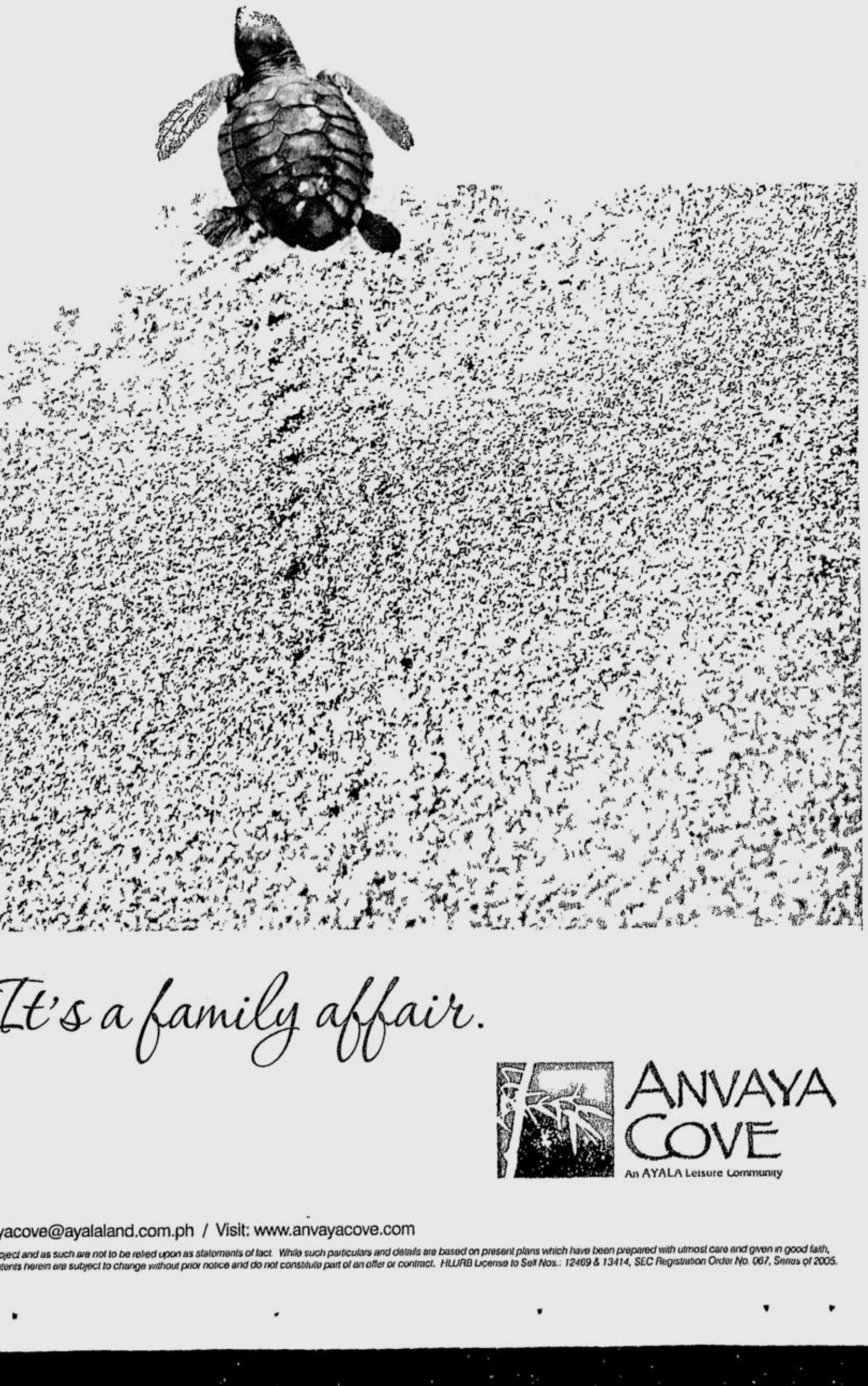
"At the open house, we will give people a foretaste of the truly world-class and exciting things to come in Anvaya Cove through the actual structure of the showroom itself, and through the experience we have created inside with both the interiors and our marketing materials as well," added Abella.

To join the Onsite Open House, call 892-3333 or 728-7000 before November 27, email anvayacove@ayalaland.com.ph or visit www.anvayacove.com. Interested parties may also visit Anvaya Cove's marketing showroom located at Greenbelt 2 Garden (near Italiannis and Segafredo), Ayala Center, Makati City.

Now, the public will be able to view first hand the vision that we have for Anvaya Cove. Its world class, resort-style living in a leisure community that's like no other.



When I saw my daughter's eyes widen at the sight of the baby pawikan, I realized that life's biggest event was in the moment! That look was priceless and I was changed forever.



Experiences made extraordinary. Anvaya Cove is a sanctuary to weary city folks as it is to some animals unique to this area located in Morong, Bataan; only 20 minutes away from the Subic Bay Freeport. Annually, *pawikan* hatchlings find their way back to the shore while migrating Mallard ducks fly inland to seek respite from the cold season.

In the heart of this enviable, exclusive leisure community is the Anvaya Cove Beach and Nature Club, designed for bonding and unique experiences that all family members can share.

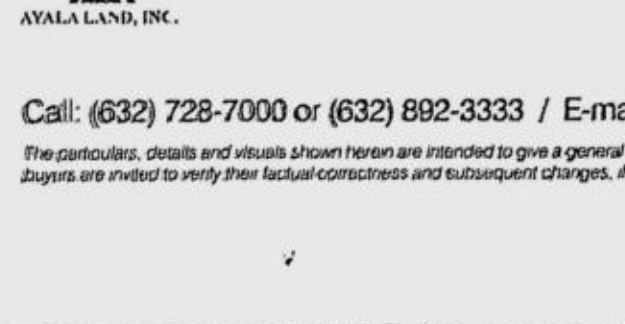
Own a slice of paradise and dare to live the life you've always wanted. Select a residential lot where you can build your dream vacation home or own a luxurious seaside villa.

In your search for the ideal second home, there is absolutely no leisure community in the country that is as warm and inviting for your family as Anvaya Cove.

By Ayala Land, naturally.

THE MANGO GROVE, ANVAYA COVE'S SECOND NEIGHBORHOOD IS NOW OPEN FOR RESERVATIONS.

Visit our Greenbelt Showroom at the Greenbelt 2 Garden, near Italianni's and Segafredo and learn more about this dream vacation home.



Or see us at our San Fernando, Pampanga Sales Office at Olongapo-Gapan Road corner Lazatin Street.

It's a family affair.

A joint development project of
AYALA LAND, INC. and SUDECO

ANVAYA COVE
An AYALA Leisure Community

Call: (632) 728-7000 or (632) 892-3333 / E-mail: anvayacove@ayalaland.com.ph / Visit: www.anvayacove.com

The particulars, details and visuals shown herein are intended to give a general idea of the project and as such are not to be relied upon as statements of fact. While such particulars and details are based on present plans which have been prepared with utmost care and given in good faith, buyers are invited to verify their factual correctness and subsequent changes, if any. The contents herein are subject to change without prior notice and do not constitute part of an offer or contract. HLURB License to Sell Nos.: 12469 & 13414, SEC Registration Order No. 067, Series of 2005.

Ang pagbibinata ni Nathan Lopez

The movie asks: what if you had to choose between your family and the love of your life?

Two boys, so many differences. Who is Nathan Lopez and why do people keep asking if he's gay?

By Pam Pastor
Photos by Pong Ignacio
Grooming by Xeng Zulueta of Shu Uemura

NO, THE BOY WHO PLAYS Maximo Oliveros in the award-winning movie Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros is not gay.

Not that there's anything wrong with being gay—fourteen-year-old Nathan Lopez just wants people to know the difference between reel and real.

Reel: Maxi lives in a seedy neighborhood in Manila. Instead of going to school, he takes care of what would have been the duties of his dead mother. His father and two elder brothers commit crimes so their family can survive.

Real: Nathan goes to a Christian school in Quezon City. His mother is a church pastor. He and his twin brother Gammy have four elder sisters. Theirs is a close-knit family - so close-knit that all eight of them sleep happily in one room at night.

Two boys, so many differences. But one thing they have in common is the love their families lavish on them. It is this same love that has helped Nathan remain levelheaded despite suddenly being catapulted into the limelight.

While some people wait years for a break, Nathan got the lead role in the movie almost accidentally. Sure, he gave stardom a shot twice—by joining Star Circle Quest 2 and the now defunct dance group Street Kids—but it was his performance as Maxi that made people sit up and take notice. It is the cliché story we've all heard before—boy/girl accompanies a friend/brother/sister to an audition and gets chosen instead. It was the movie's producer Raymond Lee and director Auraeus Solito who first spotted him.

Although Gammy was also asked to audi-

ANG PAGBIBINATA / F2

VAN HEUSEN
SHIRTS IN COLOR
Grand Anniversary Sale!
10% - 50% OFF on all items at Van Heusen Boutiques. Hurry! Limited Period only (Nov. 26-30, 2005)

BOUTIQUES:
Robinsons: Galleria • Manila
SM: Baguio • Batangas • Cagayan de Oro • Davao • Manila Megamall • Pampanga • San Lazaro • Southmall
Also at: Festival Supermall • Gateway Mall Men's World - Glorietta 3 • Shangri-La Plaza The Shops - Greenhills
Outlet Stores: Riverbanks Center • Sta. Mesa • Starmills

DEPARTMENT STORES:
Cinderella: Megamall • Alabang Town Center
Metro Gaisano: Market!Market! • Ayala Cebu
Robinsons: Festival • Manila • Bacolod • Robinson's Place
Rustan's: Alabang Town Center • Harrison Plaza • Tower Makati
SM: Cagayan de Oro • Cebu • Cubao • Davao • Iloilo • Marikina
Also at: The Landmark

Super: Who do you want to have a movie with?
Nathan: Harry Potter
Gammy: *Ano ka ba, mas gwapo ka doon 'no!*

Ang pagbibinata ni Nathan L

From page F1

tion, Nathan's more feminine features won him the role. "Physically, Gammy looks more masculine. Nathan has very soft features," their dad Louie said.

At first, Nathan and his family were reluctant about him playing Maxi. "But when we read the script we were convinced," he said. His mother Belle added that it was the message of the film that changed their minds.

Jitters

Soon, Nathan was on the set in Sampaloc, Manila, shooting his first movie. He experienced jitters but his co-stars did what they could to help him. *"Nung una po hiyang hiya ako nung pinasuot nila ako ng pambabae.* They would tell me, *artista ka na, huwag ka nang mahihiya*. They tried to motivate me." Nathan says Soliman Cruz, who plays his father in the movie, became his acting coach on the set. He also expressed appreciation for the support of Neil Ryan Sese and Ping Medina, his brothers in the movie and JR Valentin, the actor who played the cop Maxi was in love with.

The appreciation is mutual. Ping said, *"Makulit si Nathan sa set. Kung kami yung pagod na, siya yung* hyper *pa rin na nangungulit. Magaan yung loob ko kay Nathan. Kakulitan ko yun eh."*

The good vibe on the set continued during the three weeks they filmed. "*Parang* family," is how Nathan describes the cast and crew of "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros."

Their hard work has paid off. Since its first screenings at CCP and UP last July during the first Cinemalaya Philippine Independent Film Festival, "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros" has been raking in rave reviews and awards here and abroad. They were given the Jury Prize for Best Picture and the award for Best Production Design at Cinemanila, the Golden Zenith Award for Best Picture at the Montreal World Film Festival 2005, First Films Competition and the Best Picture award at the ImagineNative Film Festival 2005 in Toronto. The movie is also nominated for Best Picture and Best Director at the Asian Festival of First Films 2005 in Singapore.

Sundance

The movie is set to participate in other film festivals abroad, including Sundance, where it will make history as the first Filipino feature film to be included.

Nathan's performance hasn't gone unnoticed either. He was awarded the Jury Prize for Best Actor at Cinemalaya. "We were all surprised. It was really unexpected. I was asked to go up the stage and there were so many people. I was speechless. *Mali-mali yung mga pangalan na nasabi ko*," Nathan recalled. He is also nominated as Best Actor at the Asian Festival of First Films 2005.

Since "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros," Nathan has had acting stints on TV as well. He has appeared in ABS-CBN's Nginig and Mga Anghel na Walang Langit. Now that he has unleashed the actor in him, he has no intentions of stopping. He dreams of coming out with more movies—action and comedy, preferably. But next time, he wants his twin on the screen with him.

Nathan's twin Gammy, who also audi-

TWINS AT KISH. Gammy and Nathan Lopez are not as identical as you think.

I am Maxi.

I live in a small house in Manila. I had to quit school when my mother died. She could have lived longer but we didn't have enough money for the hospital bills. I live with my father and my brothers. I love them, I take care of them but I worry about them a lot. See, when my mother died, my father vowed not to let anything happen to any of us again. He makes sure we have food on the table and clothes on our backs by snatching cellphones from people. My brothers steal people's wallets. And then, I fell in love with a policeman... Are you ready for my story?

Cybermax

"I think I saw more truth in [the movie] than in all the *jueteng* and wiretap hearings in the last two mo

WE FLEXED OUR Google muscles to find out what people are saying about "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros" online. Here are excerpts from five blogs:

I don't even think it's a gay film.

"Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros" may have centered on a gay protagonist, but that's only scratching the surface. The movie is in fact more about the struggle of a young boy growing up in a dysfunctional family, in a seedy community, in a poor country. The character just happened to be gay.

It's a struggle about choosing right or wrong too.

That the character is gay and happened to have loved a policeman, who happened to be after his family, made for an interesting commentary on morality, even politics perhaps.

Your family are the bad guys, how can you love them? He's a good cop and the love of your life, do you choose him over your family?

Should all sins be punishable? Can't one just really be gray?

The movie also questioned stereotypes.

A gay guy undresses a hunky guy in a dark room and it's just the two of them—should there be sex?

A father and his two eldest sons are the embodiment of your beer bottle-slugging neighborhood thug--will they beat up the effeminate sibling?

Should Venezuela really be represented in all gay beauty pageants?

Definitely worth seeing when it hits the theaters on Nov. 30.

-Blue Arden (bluearden.blogspot.com)

My father praises Filipino films like human feet landing on the moon, and these are the films mostly from the once Golden Age of pinoy cinema. My father is one of the sharpest, and I mean sharpest, film critics I've ever seen. Now you cannot comprehend how much of a surprise it was for me, but he actually liked our film. It made him laugh (hard) and it made him cry (spotted his glassy eyes with a sideglance). I was sitting beside him in the theater and was therefore, a witness to how engaged he was. Aside from that, I've heard a lot of people praising the film. They went as far as saying "it's the best Filipino film in recent (highest was 10) years". Quite a stretch really. But if it helps the film then by all means.

I won't say that this film is going to change your life. However, I honestly believe that what we've done here is something out of the usual. It is something worth watching, and I know it can inspire Filipinos that we can do better not just in films, but in practically everything we set our minds and passions to. It is what I'd consider a a good start. For better things to come.

-Ping Medina, who plays Kuya Bogs in the movie, on watching the movie with his father Pen Medina (www.livejournal.com/users/pinggoy)

So I watched "Ang Pagdadalaga Ni Maximo Oliveros" here on a rainy Saturday night.

The theatre was packed, and surprisingly there were less Filipinos in the audience than I expected.

It felt sooooo good to see and hear the audience respond well. It meant that they GOT it. They could relate.

And that's hard, you know, to make other people understand Philippine culture through film. And Filipino humor.

From the feedback the audience gave, people were interested in seeing more Filipino films. And that made me glad.

And of course, it was such a plus to brag to my friends that i knew Kuya Bogs.

-Prich, on watching the movie at the IMAGINEnative Film and Media Arts Festival in Canada where the movie won an award (www.livejournal.com/users/fish_wrapper/)

I think I saw more truth in "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros" than in all the *jueteng* and wiretap hearings in the last two months.

The truth lies in the tender savage emotions, the feel of authentic home in a rough neighborhood, the brutality of a jail co helped that director Auraeus S has spent much of his career documentaries, as well as mu his life living in Sampaloc, i kind of urban world his char inhabit.

But what struck me most wa the film dared say there was wa and love in a petty and violent family that much of society w consider *patapon*.

-Howie Sev (http://www.gmapinoytv.com trip/blog/index.php?/archives Where-is-the-truth-in-this cou try.html)

If you have a dad, watch it
If you had a dad, watch it
If you have a sugar daddy, wa

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

.opez

tioned for the role of Maxi, has nothing but love and support for his brother. In fact, while Nathan shies away from calling attention to himself, Gammy is the one who goes to school and brings photos, spreading word about his brother's achievements. "Proud *na* proud *ako*," Gammy said. "*Pero huwag lang lalaki yung ulo niya*, that's what I always tell him."

Raymond, the film's producer, also has reminders for Nathan. "*Sabi nya, gusto niya akong maging actor, hindi* celebrity," Nathan said.

Grounded

Nathan is not living the life of a celebrity—far from it. Being surrounded by people determined to keep his feet on the ground has helped him handle the adjustments with ease. When you take away the film festivals, the awards, the rave reviews, Nathan still is the same normal quiet—even almost shy—teenage boy who likes having fun with his twin.

They both love math and science, they play pranks on people by pretending to be each other, they protect each other from school bullies and fend off advances from starry-eyed girls.

"*Magkakampi kami sa lahat ng bagay*," Gammy said, smiling at his twin brother.

Pretty much like Maxi and his celluloid brothers.

"Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros" will open in theaters on Nov. 30.

Visit http://maximooliveros.tripod.com. Check out Maxi's blog at http://maximooliveros.blogspot.com

E-mail the author at ppastor@inquirer.com.ph.

onths.'–Howie Severino

and
au-
bor-
ll. It
olito
loing
h of
the
cters
that
rmth
rime
ould
rino
side-
15-
h it.

If you grew up playing on the streets of Manila, watch it.

If you grew up with your nanny powdering your a**, watch it.

If you're gay, watch it.

If you used to think you're gay but changed your mind, watch it.

If you think your boyfriend is gay, watch it.

If you know your boyfriend is gay, watch it.

If you have a gay friend, watch it.

If you like policemen, watch it.

If you hate policemen, watch it.

If you like beauty pageants, watch it.

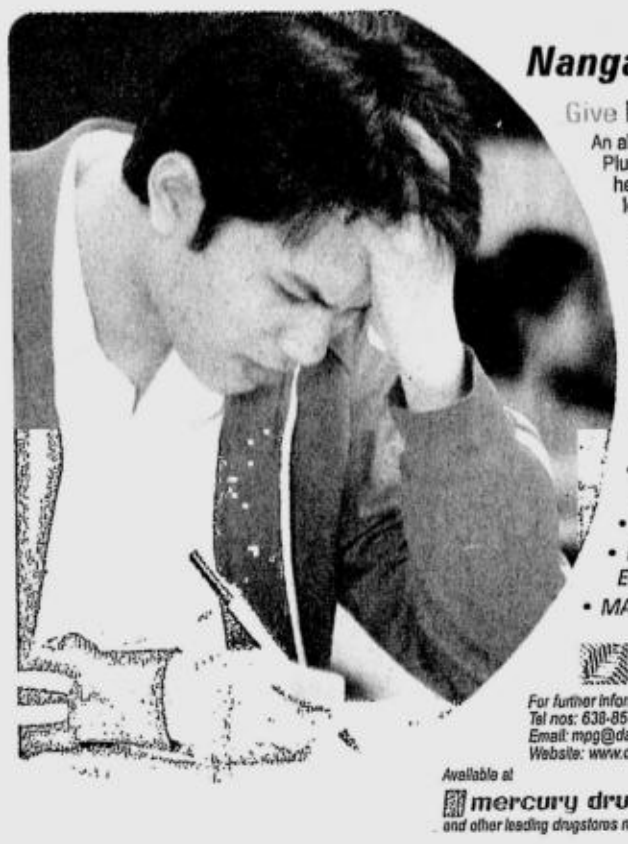
If you have brothers, watch it.

If you wish you had brothers, watch it.

If you are a brother, watch it.

Watch it, watch it, watch it.

-Pam Pastor (nocturnalangel2.blogspot.com)



Nangangamote ba sa school ang anak mo?

Give him a helping hand with Memo Plus Gold.

An all-natural herbal supplement developed from an ancient *Ayurvedic* formula, Memo Plus Gold contains the extract of *Brahmi* or *Bacopa Monniera*, a memory-enhancing herb that improves nerve impulse transmission for better memory and enhanced learning capability.

Memo Plus Gold is ideal for all students, professionals, homemakers, and the elderly. Clinical trials by the Central Drug Research Institute in India and extensive studies conducted in Australia prove that Memo Plus Gold is safe and effective.

For best results, take one Memo Plus Gold capsule after a meal, twice a day, for three months. For maintenance, the ideal dose is one capsule a day after a meal.

- *ENHANCE SHORT AND LONG-TERM MEMORY*
- *IMPROVE CONCENTRATION AND LEARNING*
- *ALLEVIATE ABSENT-MINDEDNESS AND FORGETFULNESS*
- *REDUCE ANXIETY AND STRESS*
- *DECREASE SENILITY AND THE EFFECTS OF AGING*
- *MAINTAIN GENERAL WELL-BEING*

BFAD Reg. No. FR 40318

SRP P14.00 PER CAPSULE

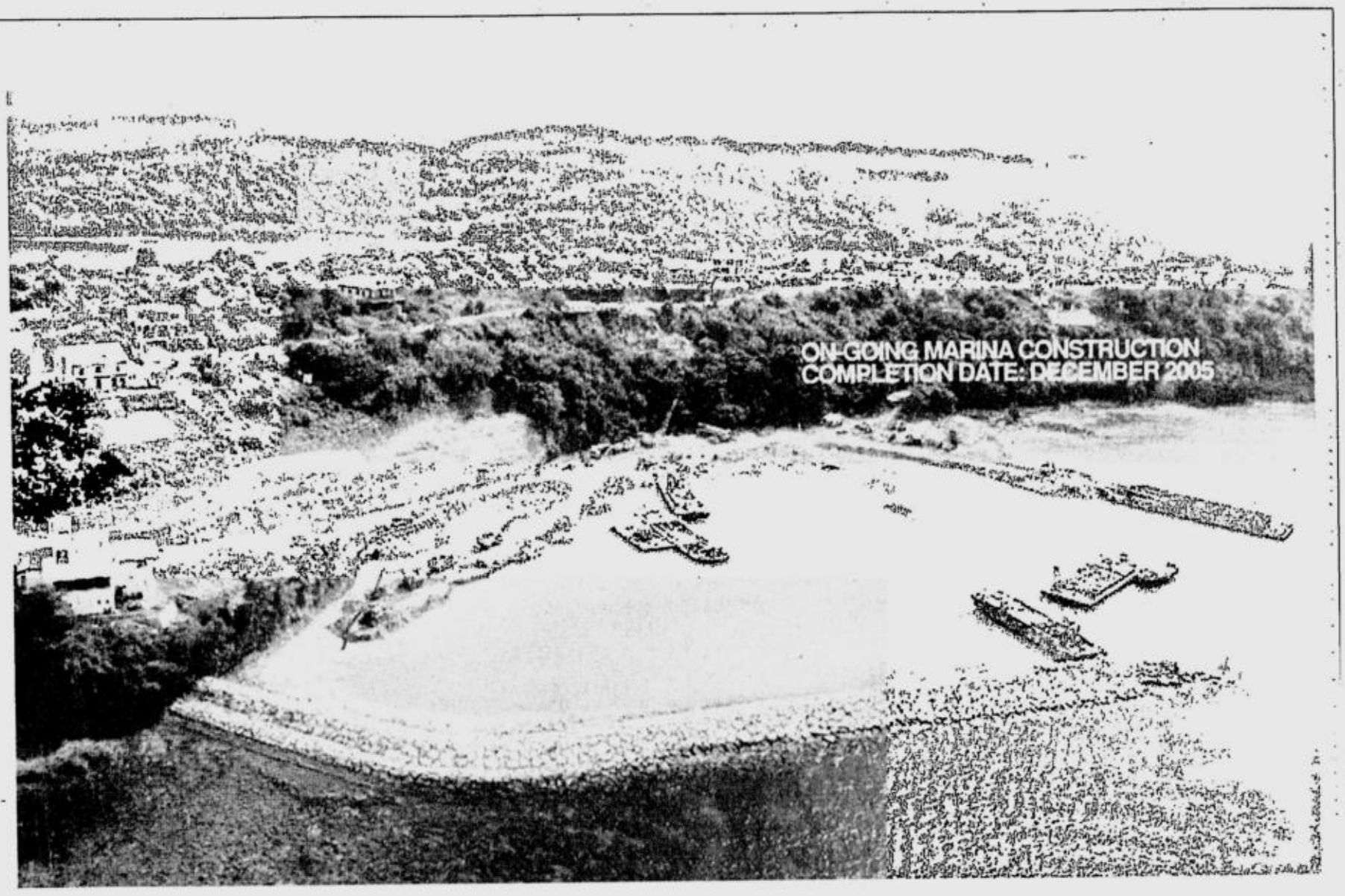
Memo Plus Gold

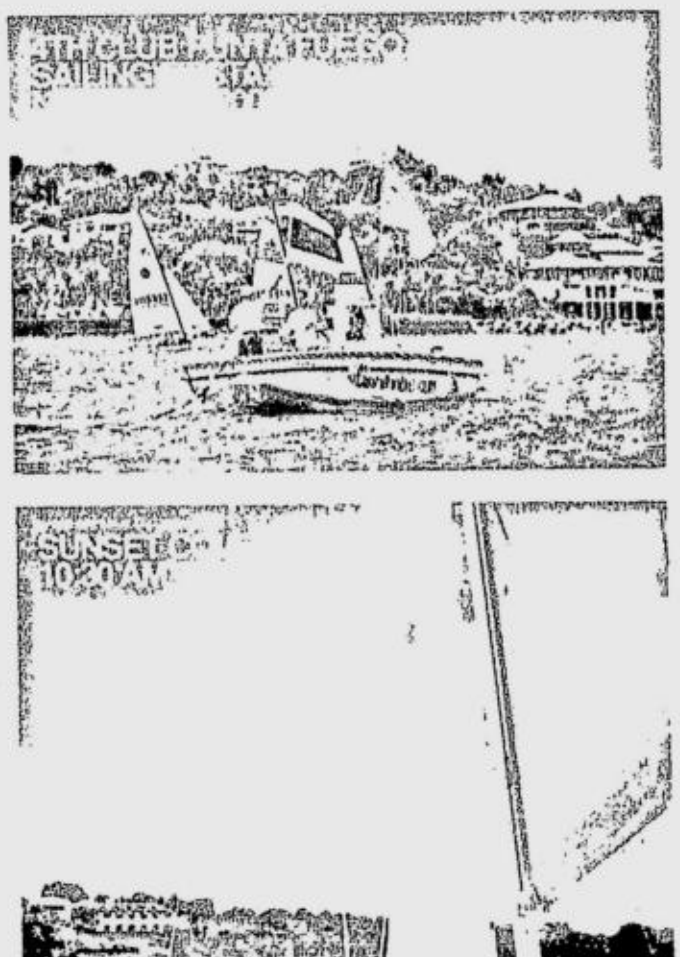
Davenben Enterprises Corp

For further information, please contact
Tel nos: 638-8573; 631-9863; 638-8379
Email: mpg@davenben.com
Website: www.davenben.com

Available at mercury drug stores and other leading drugstores nationwide.

The Gold Standard in Memory Enhancement





35-foot speedboats
60-foot luxury yachts
and 150 hungry sailors

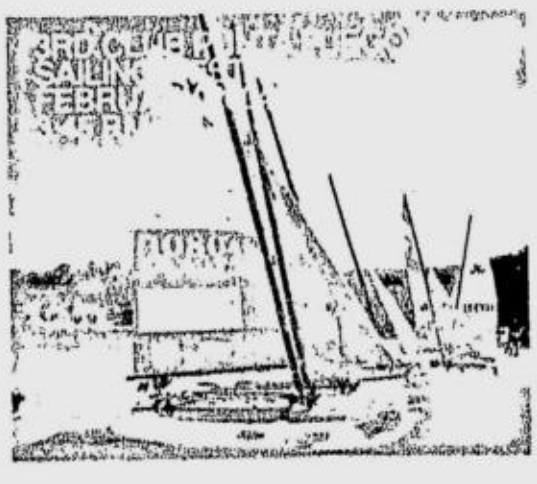
The new South Marina of Peninsula de Punta Fuego will handle them all. As construction kicks into full swing, it will have wide berths enough for 30 boats, each with its own electric and water facilities. As a first class sailing hub, the marina is a haven for weekend seafarers to recharge or refresh. Or refuel in the yacht club's sunset bar while they plot their next conquests. Coming this December 2005.

A promise is a promise.

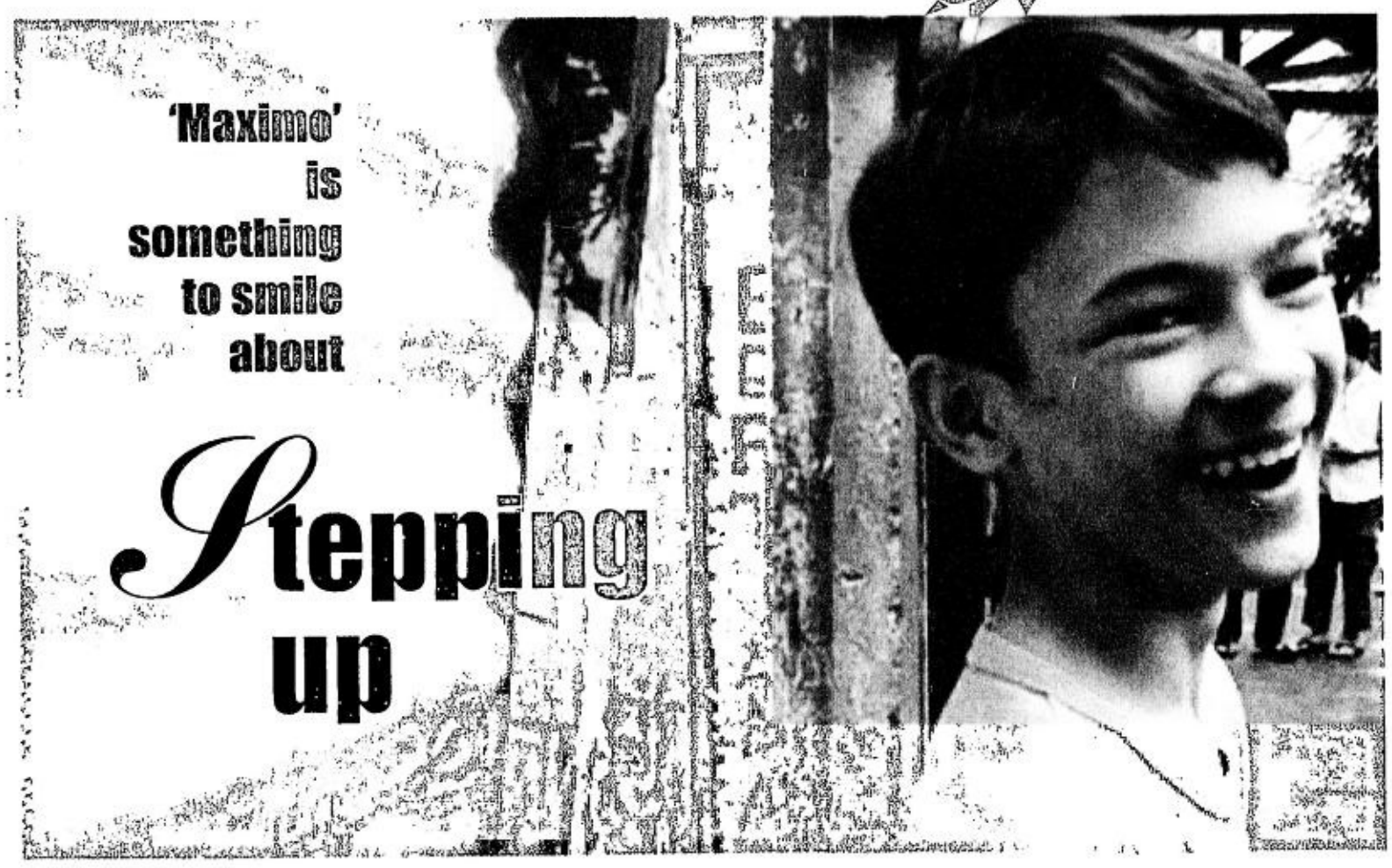
PUNTA FUEGO COMMUNITIES

NEW OFFERINGS ARE NOW OPEN FOR RESERVATION
Call 809.7316 or visit
www.landcopacific.com

Lifestyle communities created by:
LANDCO PACIFIC CORPORATION



BEST COPY AVAILABLE



'Maximo' is something to smile about

Stepping up

By James Gabrillo and Pepe Diokno

YOU'VE PROBABLY READ THE OTHER REviews in this section and you're probably itching to watch the movie.

Here are the raves so far about the film: it's wholesome, it's a departure from normal Filipino crapola, it has heart, and if you're a softie you're gonna cry. Hey, sounds like the criteria for an A from the Cinema Evaluation Board.

We agree with all that. This film is infinitely better than "Shut Up, I-Memorize Mo Yan" starring Joko and Paquito Diaz, and it does have heart. It's one of those films that you can tell was made because the writer wanted to say something. It's a film wherein you can tell that everyone who worked on it invested a lot of emotion. It hits you (if you have a soft spot for movies like this).

So because of this, go see "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros." But ladies and gentlemen, watch it without any expectations.

We watch movies just like Ate Jing Jing, Kuya Soliman, and you do. We basically look out for a good plot, and moving visuals.

The basic plot of "Maximo" is something we've seen before. Child. Dysfunctional family. Problems. Tears. Somebody dies. This brings everybody together. Boom. Happy ending. (Oh man, sorry for the spoiler.) But the again, it's cool— 'cause there are always people who go for stories like this.

We would've wanted to see better visuals, too—'cause that's what we and other couch potatoes respond to. They call this generation a bunch of visual intellects. Now, we don't expect all films to have wow visuals, 'cause sometimes it distracts us from the story. We don't expect colors and cars flying around and Gollum. The visuals that we want are visuals that connect with the story being fed to us. Like, you feel through the camera. Like, the camera isn't just there. To us, that is putting thought into the visuals. What we mean is the film could have been shot better.

So we've seen the plot before. There aren't masterful shots or anything. OK story, OK visuals; is it just an OK movie?

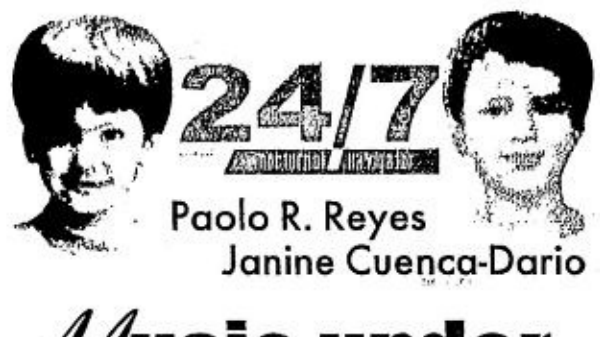
It is a good Filipino movie. We've said it's way better than a lot of the trash we churn out. It's a plus for the industry. But in terms of what we Filipinos can do, it's far from the peak. Let's think of this as a challenge to step higher.

With the A-rating and all the raves, you'll think you're going to see the best movie of 2005. And it might be.

It's a small film with a big heart—but we don't think its intention was to "wow." Its intention was to make its audience feel. And it does that.

Again, throw all your expectations out the window and appreciate the movie as it is—it's simple, not-showy, and full of heart.

Catch "Maximo" when it begins its run on Nov. 30.



Music under the Mistletoe

WITH EVERYONE FROM MAKSIM TO MICHAEL Bolton to MiG Ayesa slated to perform, December promises to be a stellar month for all sorts of music lovers.

Super event of next week!
Venture 7 Christmas Bazaar

Bazaar lovers of the world, unite! Lady of leisure and charity-Fanny Blanco flexes her muscles and chairs this year's Venture 7 Christmas Bazaar 2005 at the Hotel Intercontinental Makati next Saturday December 4,2005 Sun from 9am to 7pm.

On sale will be a wide array of top quality goods made locally and also imported from USA, Lebanon, Russia, China & Thailand. Many participants are young entrepreneurs.

Get ready for a Super! shopping adventure.

Have yourself a MISHKA Christmas @ Fully Booked Rockwell, Dec. 2, 4 p.m.

The jazz wunderkind Mishka Adams will be playing a live acoustic set at the Fully Booked flagship store at the Rockwell Power Plant Mall. Cozy up to an afternoon of chocolatey-smooth jazz from this I am Super! awardee.

Overdrive on a Silk Road @ Grand Boulevard Hotel, Nov. 30

Ready for a nostalgic night of smooth rock classics? Popular '80s bands Overdrive and Silk hold a holiday fundraiser concert on Wednesday that will surely make you slip back into the '70s to early '90s music scene. (Think U2, Tears for Fears, Duran Duran, Sting, Police, The Pretenders, and Dire Straits). The party starts at 9 p.m. in Cafe Fontana, Grand Boulevard Hotel, 1990 Roxas Boulevard, Manila. Call 891-9999.

Other Super! 24/7 events:

Nov. 26, Saturday

DJ Guy Ornadel at Embassy Club; Official Relaunch Party: Size Queen at Bed; South Border at SM Megamall Cinema 3; Yee Haw!!! Burn Survivor Bar Tour at selected bars in Metrowalk, Makati, Eastwood, and The Fort; Pinikpikan at 70s Bistro; Pump Saturdays w/ House DJs at Jill's; Soundsgood DJs at Embassy Cuisine; House Night w/ Mark de Leon at Rack's El Pueblo; Paolo Abaya at Absinth; Kevin Ruiz at Government; Sugarfree, Cambio, Happy Meals, and Twisted Halo at Saguijo; Ntwine & Sipol at Tavern on the Square; DJ Scratchmark & Bliss at Prince of Jaipur; Kyla at Virgin Café; Jazzphil Ensemble at Wasabi

Nov. 27, Sunday

Come Hale, Sugarfree, & Silk: Win or Lose It's the Concert We Choose! at Ateneo High School Covered Courts, ADMU, QC; Transient: Images from Vietnam and Cambodia by Toto Labrador at Lumiere Gallery; Gutsy Tuason exhibit at Greenbelt 3 Cinemas Lobby; Carlos Celdran's Walking Tour at Binondo; Sunday Jazz Brunch at Paseo Uno; Sugar-free Desserts & Ice Cream at Peninsula Manila Lobby

Nov. 28, Monday

Soul Seduction at Absinth; Industria at Virgin Café at Tomas Morato; Freestyle at Tavern on the Square; I Don't Like Mondays! w/ DJ Ro at Gwellos Makati; CouchLab DJs at Tiananmen Bar; Eastwind Jazz Trio at Captain's Bar

Nov. 29, Tuesday

Panic with DJ Alessandra Tinio at Zen; Mishka Adams at 70s Bistro; Ethan at Temple; The Bloomfields at Dish; Willy Wanka's Music Factory w/ Joffy Cruz at Gwellos Makati; Kickback Tuesdays at Manila DJ Club; Guarana at Cafe Havana Greenbelt; CouchLab DJs at Tiananmen Bar; Wiseguys at Tavern on the Square;; 604 Band at Virgin Café; Freeverse at Suburbia

Nov. 30, Wednesday

Overdrive and Silk at Cafe Fontana, Grand Boulevard Hotel; Savour Nature Concert at Greenbelt 3 Park; Mujeres Christmas WishList at Ñ; Faces Nights with Boyet Almazan at Mezze; Superfly & BMP at Embassy Cuisine; Johnyverse & Mars Miranda at Embassy Club; Cosmic Love, Pinoy Stories, and Sino Sikat? at Saguijo; Johnny Alegre Affinity at Alabang Town Center; CouchLab DJs at Tiananmen Bar; Wency Cornejo at Tavern on the Square; Eastwind Jazz Trio at Captain's Bar; Shanice Michaels at Quisine; Jimmy Bondoc at Suburbia; Freeverse at Virgin Café

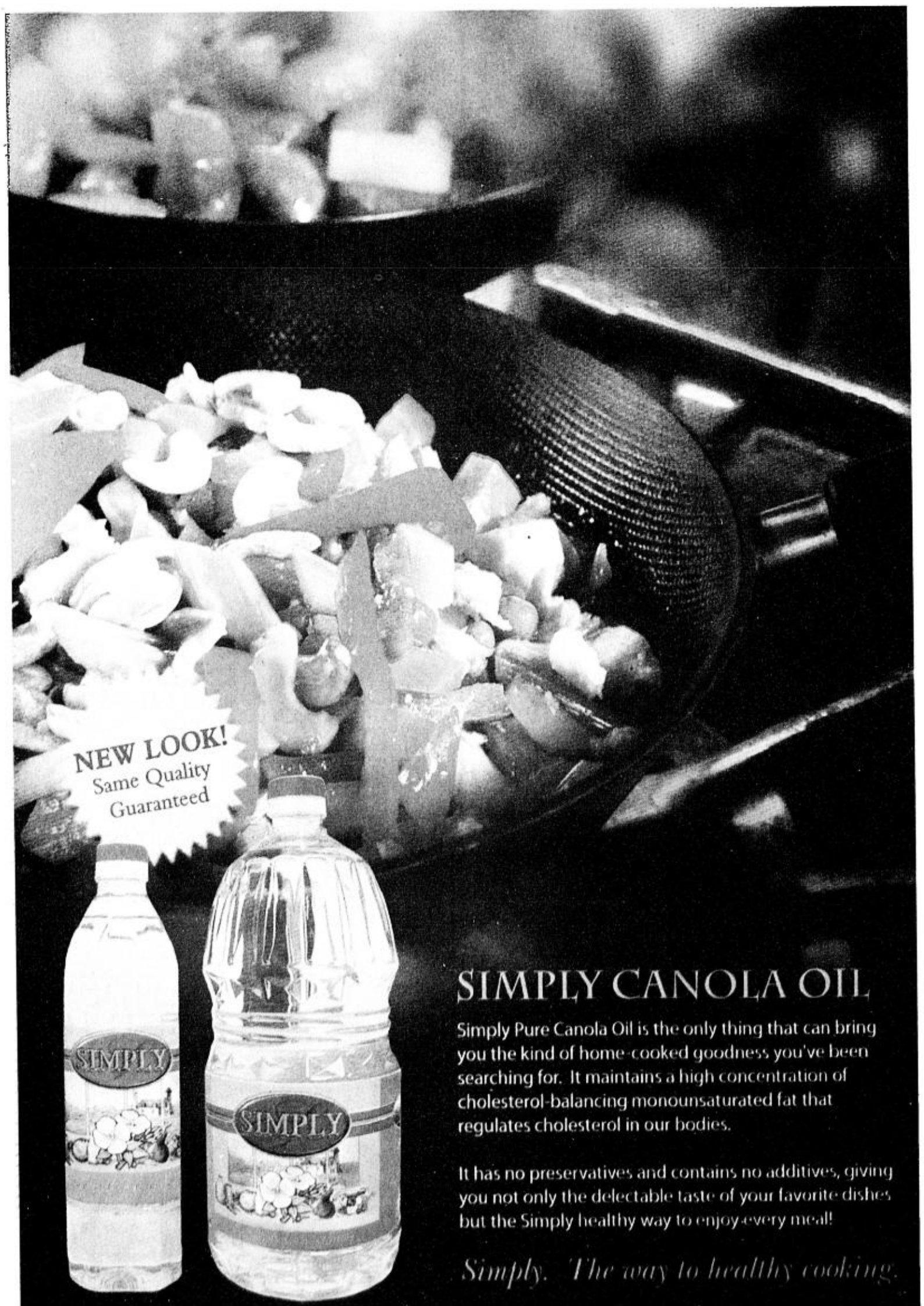
December 1, Thursday

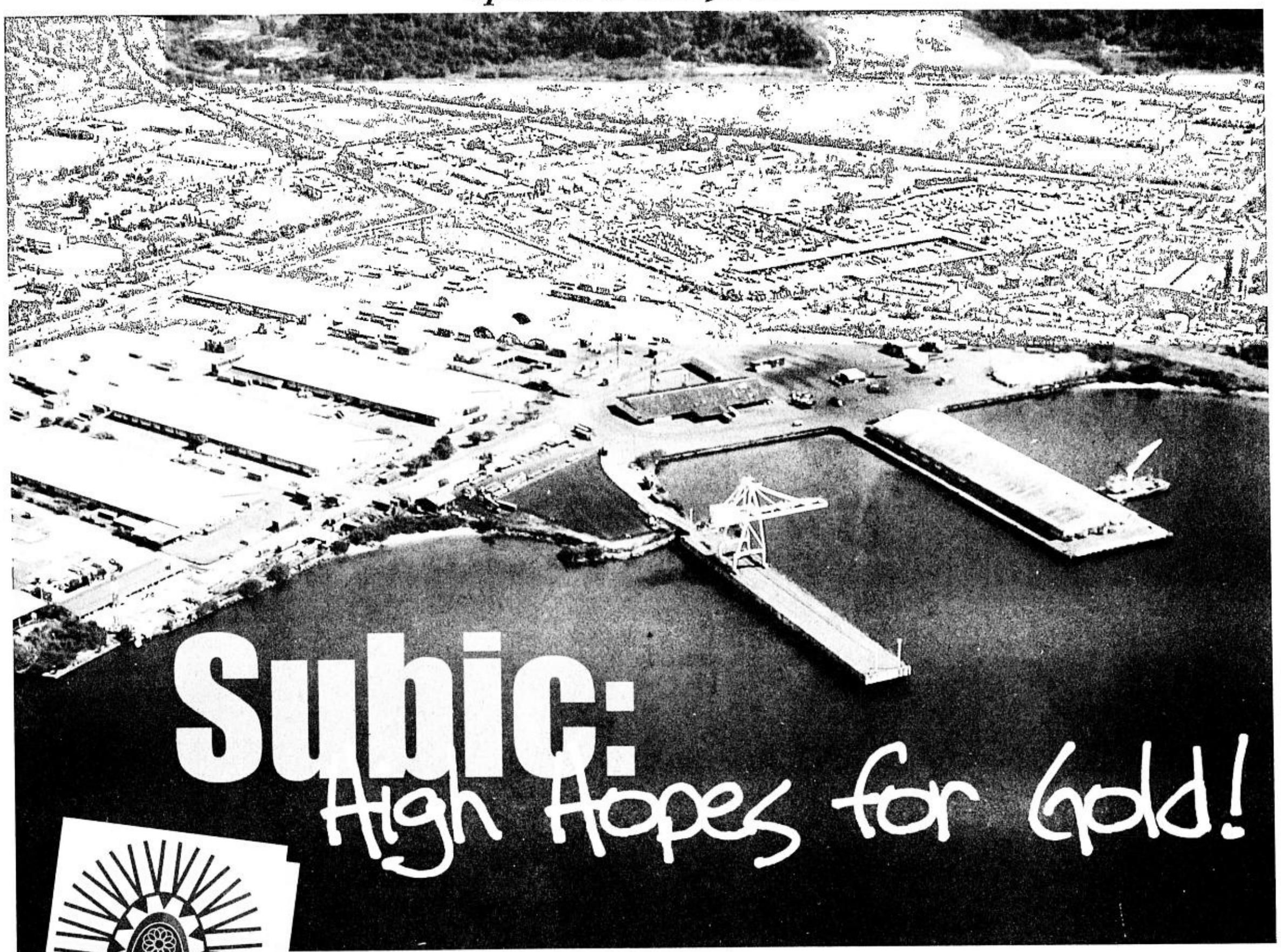
Peter & Gordon: Reunion Tour at Araneta Coliseum; Flux Thursdays at Manila DJ Club; RIDDM: Live Rock with Menaya at Absinth; Supahstar DJ Thursdaze at Bed; Breathless Beats with DJ Brit at Government; Maegan Aguilar at Phi Bar; Ladies Night at Temple

Dec. 2, Friday

NBK's HouSessions with Manolet Darlo at Mezze; Decadance with Boyet Almazan at Jill's; Confessions of a Holy Stand-up at Music Museum; Kitchie Nadal & Barbie Almalbis at SM Megamall Cinema 9; Vibe Fridays with Steve Mills at Wasabi; MyHOUSE with Elian Habayeb at M Café; Calypso DJs at Maestro; CouchLab DJs at Embassy Cuisine; DJ Patch at Absinth; Bam del Valle at Government; Bliss 905 at Phi Bar; Jive Fridays at Temple; DJ Kimosave at Prince of Jaipur

Schedules may change without prior notice. For more information and a complete listing of events, text 24/7 through your mobile phone and send to 2949 for Globe and 209 for Smart. Log on to www.mag24-7.com or pick up your free copy of 24/7 Nocturnal Navigator at bars and restaurants around the city. Submit your schedules before Wednesday to e-mail address events@mag24-7.com and mag24_7@yahoo.com.





Subic: High Hopes for Gold!

23rd SEA GAMES
Subic Bay, Philippines 2005

Best of both worlds

SEA Games participants will find in the Subic Bay Freeport a mix of the old and the new - with a lot of suprises thrown in between

NOT SINCE LEADERS OF THE Asia-Pacific Economic Conference held a summit here in 1996 had Subic been so focused on preparing to be the venue of an important event. As a satellite venue for four events in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games, Subic had to prepare venues for archery, canoe/kayak, triathlon and sailing. Not a small task considering that close to 400 athletes and sports officials - plus an undetermined number of guests -are expected to swell Subic's visitors population from November 26 to December 5.

Luckily enough, preparations have begun long before SEAG officials had even decided on Subic as a venue. As the country's premier freeport, Subic now boasts of both industrial and commercial establishments that have taken over military offices and barracks, mess halls and commissary stores, and depots and shops that dotted the landscape of the then Subic Naval Base, America's biggest military facility outside the continental United States.

Yet while development projects are rapidly transforming Subic since it has been converted into a freeport and special economic zone in 1992, the former military facility has retained much of its allure as a natural tourist attraction. Most of its forests and beaches remain unspoiled, its flora and fauna thriving despite the hum of factories and droves of tourists. In residential areas, monkeys and parrots still raid fruit trees - unafraid of the new inhabitants who even welcome their presence.

"Industry in the heart of nature." "Your gateway to business and leisure." These phrases best capture the essence of today's Subic. Its unique environment blends the modern and the natural; it has what is essential and what is convenient.

Subic facilities

In hosting four events of the 23rd SEA Games, Subic hopes to make full use of both its natural and man-made facilities. The archery competition will be staged at two huge outdoor venues - the Remy Field and the Subic football field, which have seen countless musical concerts and shows, trade fairs and bazaars, as well as sports events. Triathlon, which consists of swimming, cycling and running, will start at the bay area of the Boardwalk Park. It will then progress along well-paved roads that include moderate inclines, before returning to the Boardwalk Park for the race finish.

Both the canoeing and the sailing events will be held in Subic's bay, formerly the homeport of the mighty vessels of the U.S. Navy's Seventh Fleet and now the playground for jetskiers and other water sports enthusiasts. Subic's pristine waters have witnessed several high-profile sailing competitions, including international regattas that have brought sailboats to Subic all the way from Hong Kong and Australia.

For the sailing event of the 23rd SEAG, the exclusive Subic Bay Yacht Club has offered its land-based facilities - a secretariat office, media room and first aid station, including a recompression chamber - for the use of all teams participating in the sailing competition. The natural beauty of the bay, meanwhile, provides the backdrop for the kayaking event set at Subic's Malawaan fishing area, a quiet cove near the busy Sattler Pier. Malawaan has also been the venue for the Fifth Southeast Asian Canoe Championship and the Third Junior Southeast Asian Canoe Championship.

Subic surprises

Aside from these venues, 23rd SEAG delegates and spectators may also find it interesting to visit tourist attractions that vary from the traditional to the contemporary. Those who wish for natural wonders may visit JEST Camp in the Cubi area where Aeta jungle environment survival training experts give lecture-demonstrations on the lost art of starting fire with bamboo sticks and then cooking with sections of bamboo poles. There are also jungle trails to explore, streams and waterfalls, and beaches suitable for picnics.

For more mundane pleasure, visitors can choose from bars and restaurants that line Subic's waterfront area. There are several hotels and inns - some completed just in time for the SEAG extravaganza - as well as duty free shops, shopping malls, and other entertainment centers. Subic also has adequate facilities for communication and transportation, including an international airport now being used by several airlines for chartered flights.

Capping what Subic has to offer during the SEAG is a fitting welcome ceremony for the sports delegations. According to Subic SEA Games Organizing Committee chairman Ramon de Leon, Subic has prepared for tonight a traditional "barrio fiesta" complete with horse-drawn carriage rides for SEAG athletes and officials. The ceremony, which harks back to old Filipino customs of friendship and hospitality, of thanksgiving and fest, has been so designed as to give the SEAG visitors "a genuine taste of the best of Subic." - With Jonas Reyes

Message

sbma
SUBIC BAY METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY

On behalf of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority and the entire Subic Bay Freeport community and our local government unit partners, let me welcome you all to the 23rd Southeast Asian Games - Subic segment.

Starting today until December 5, Subic - as a satellite venue of the SEA Games - proudly takes up the role of hosting close to 400 athletes and sports officials from 11 Southeast Asian countries, including the Philippines - plus hundreds, if not thousands of spectators. Not since 1996, when the leaders of the APEC gathered here for their summit, has an event of such interest to Asia - if not, the world - has been held here.

In hosting four sports events - namely: archery, sailing, kayaking and triathlon - Subic hopes to stage before the world not just the elimination and final rounds of the games but the best of Subic and its tourism and investment facilities as well.

The best of Subic includes the sense of community and teamwork with which we have tackled the many details of preparing for the event. It also involves a renewal of the spirit of volunteerism within the Freeport, especially among the students here who will assist us for the duration of the games.

From a broader perspective, we see the holding of the SEA Games here as yet another opportunity for Subic and the entire Philippines to forge ahead the spirit of brotherhood and cooperation in the region. No differences in language, culture and faith; no geographical or political barriers should stand in the way of this much higher endeavor.

Maraming salamat sa lahat ng tumulong sa amin and welcome once again to Subic!

FELICIANO G. SALONGA
Chairman

sbma
SUBIC BAY METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY

On the occasion of the 23rd South East Asian (SEA) Games, four events of which will be held here in Subic, I invite everyone to visit the Subic Bay Freeport on November 25 - December 5

As one of the 23rd SEA Games satellite venues, Subic will serve as the staging ground for four exciting sports events - Archery, Kayaking, Triathlon and Sailing. We have prepared well for these events and have been cited by Philippine Southeast Asian Games Organizing Committee (Philsoc) as among the best event venues in the country

Thus, I take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported us in this endeavor. I especially acknowledge our locators, our local communities and the many student volunteers who will be helping us out during the games. Such display of civic duty, cooperation and partnership is truly heartwarming.

Yet even as we have left no stone unturned in ensuring the successful conduct of the games here, we are ready as well to welcome spectators and tourists alike. Awaiting them is a double treat - the spectacle of this regional competition and Subic's many natural and man-made attractions.

The entire Philippines, not Subic alone, stands to benefit from the holding of the 23rd SEA Games in various places around the country. Aside from boosting local and international tourism, this prestigious event gives us another opportunity to join the aspirations toward excellence of our fellow Asians and play a significant role in the community of men and nations that is the South East Asian region.

ARMAND C. ARREZA
Administrator

Going for Gold

The biggest sporting event in Southeast Asia goes to Subic. Here's a look at the events and what's at stake.

ONCE AGAIN, THE SUBIC BAY FREEport Zone hugs the limelight as it becomes the arena for four events in the biggest sporting extravaganza in the Southeast Asian region-the 23rd SEA Games.

In this year's SEAG, 11 countries will vie in 41 different sports that encompass 441 events. Philippine athletes will battle it out with counterparts from Vietnam, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Cambodia, Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Laos, East Timor and Myanmar.

In Subic, where archery, canoe/kayak, triathlon and sailing will be contested, a total of 212 athletes will be in contention: 83 of them in archery, 55 in canoe/kayak, 62 in sailing, and 12 in triathlon. Including sports officials accompanying the athletes, a total of 388 SEAG delegates will be in Subic from November 26 to December 4.

The contest schedule promises to give spectators nine days of non-stop high action. Sailing takes off first, on November 26; archery begins on the 29th, while the canoe/kayak event begins on December 2. Triathlon is scheduled for two days, December 1-2. Finals for the events are as follows: Triathlon, December 1-2; Archery, December 3-4; Canoe/kayak, December 3-4; and Sailing, December 4.

As the region's major multi-sporting event, the Southeast Asian Games enable athletes to meet in friendly competition, thereby fostering goodwill, friendship and solidarity in accordance with the aims and aspirations of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations or the ASEAN. It also seeks to strengthen political, economic and social ties among the member-countries.

SEA Games origin

The SEAG traces its roots to the South East Asian Peninsular Games (SEAP) that was inaugurated in Thailand in 1959. At the start, only six countries participated - Burma (now Myanmar), Laos, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

The SEAP was the brainchild of Laung Sukhumnaipradit, then vice president of the Thailand Olympic Committee. He firmly believed that a regional sports event, similar to the Asian Games or the Olympic Games, will help promote cooperation, understanding and good relations among countries in the region. After two years of lobbying, his efforts paid off.

The SEAP then continued to be held every other year and more countries joined in. In 1975, when the SEAP Federation accepted Indonesia and the Philippines as members, the name was changed to Southeast Asian Games. The competition then began carrying this name since the hosting of the biennial meet in 1977 at

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Under the SEAG set-up, hosting of the event rotated among the members to give the host countries enough time to plan and prepare for their turn at the games. This would be the third time that the Philippines hosted the games. The first came in 1981, and the second in 1991.

As a biennial sports spectacular, the SEA Games had become a showcase of sporting skills. It also served to introduce new forms of sports that may later find their way into the mainstream. Because of this, the sports included in the SEA Games varied from time to time. In this year's event, however, 41 sports were officially lined up.

The four events scheduled in the Subic Bay Freeport promise to be among the most hotly contested sports in the line-up.

Archery

One of the oldest arts still practiced, archery probably dates back to the Stone Age when cavemen used bows and arrows both for hunting and warfare.

From the early days, archery made its way to popular culture. Its popularity is reflected in many ballads and folklore like the stories of Robin Hood and William Tell. The first known organized competition in archery was held at Finsbury, England in 1583 and some 3,000 participants joined the event. With the introduction of gunfire in the 30 Years War (1618-1648), however, archery began to be developed as a recreational and competitive sport. Today, archery exemplifies concentration, exactitude and self-control in sports.

Four gold medals will be at stake for archery in the 23rd SEA Games. These will be for individual recurve (men/women) and team recurve (men/women).

Canoe/Kayak

The canoeing or kayaking event is one of the fastest sports in the league. But aside from providing action, the kayak is said to have a romantic image associated with fur-clad Eskimos silently gliding along, hunting their sustenance, and becoming at one with the rhythms of the sea.

Today, the recreational kayaks are designed to be fast, and able to slice through the waves with maximum efficiency while maintaining seaworthiness. But the ancient art of handling kayak, which required the ingenuity of man to transport himself in an unforgiving climate, still extends to the modern-day skills required by this sport.

For the canoe/kayak event in Subic, six gold medals are at stake. These are for the 500m K1 (men/women), 500m K2 (men/women), 500m C1 (men), and 500 C2 (men).

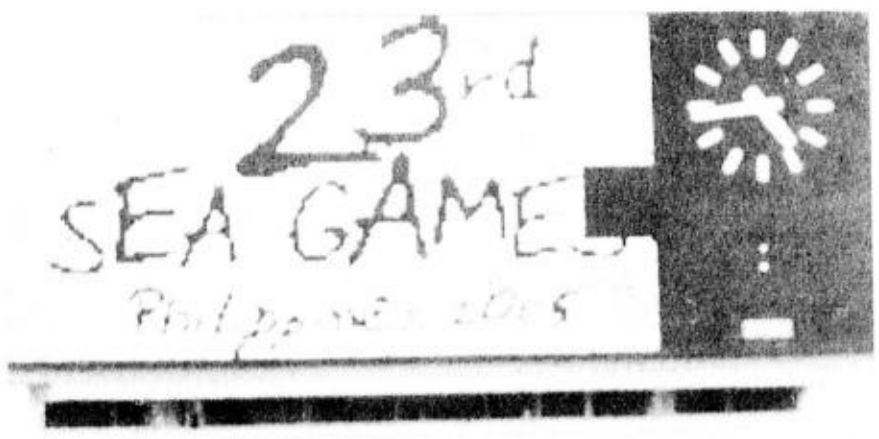
Sailing

Sailing, also called yachting, has been practiced since antiquity as a means of transport. But in the mid-1600s, King Charles II brought it to England as a sport after his exile in Holland, where yachting probably originated (the word came from the Dutch "jaght" or "jaght schip," probably a light, fast naval craft).

International yacht racing began in 1851 when some members of the New York Yacht Club built a 101-foot schooner

GOLD/ G4

SEAG torch ushers in Subic SEA Games



The flames of unity and sportsmanship among South East Asian countries lit up Subic Bay the other day (November 22) when Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) Administrator Armand C. Arreza received the 23rd Southeast Asian Games torch for a momentous relay of the symbolic torch.

Lending support to the occasion were the local government units (LGUs) of Olongapo City, and the provinces of Bataan and Zambales.

A flurry of vehicles, runners and local cyclists followed the relay as it passed from one key area to another within the Freeport, lighting up each site representing the 11 participating countries that make up the South East Asian region.

Arreza, along with Archery gold medal hopeful Jennifer Chan, was the first to run with the torch, which Olongapo City Mayor James Gordon handed over at the main gate of the Freeport.

The symbolic torch was relayed by 11 Pinoy athletes one after another and from one key area to another, as each athlete handed the torch to 11 top SBMA officials and investors stationed in the 11 key areas inside the Freeport, signifying the 11 countries that make up the South East Asian region.

The relay ended at the Remy Field where SBMA Chairman Feliciano G. Salonga and Archery star player Jasmine Figueroa awaited. Hoisting the torch, Figueroa ran around the whole track while local gymnasts performed at the center. Finally, the country's bet for gold lit up the giant urn, symbolizing the eternal flame of Asian brotherhood.

A day after the relay, Philsoc-SBMA Secretariat over-all chairman Ramon de Leon turned over the torch to Hero Bautista in Quezon City from where the 15-day national torch relay would continue, covering a total of 3,500 kilometers and passing through 55 cities and municipalities in the country.

The SEA Games symbolic flame arrived in Cebu City last Saturday, November 12, from Vietnam where 22nd SEA Games was held. It will end in Manila in time for the grand opening rites on November 27.

A grand reception welcomes SEAG participants in Subic

By Ning Dimaano

A VERY UNIQUE AND COLORful grand barrio fiesta-like ceremony surprised the participants of the 23rd South East Asian Games here yesterday (November 24).

"We want to show the whole world the rich cultural heritage we have in this part of the country. And for such a big international event to be held here, we are anticipating a crowd coming from nearby provinces throughout the Games," SBMA Administrator and CEO Armand C. Arreza revealed with excitement.

Held at the Remy Field Athletic Center, the SEAG welcome reception was highlighted by a colorful and grand production number composed of about 250 performing artists to showcase a variety of Philippine cultural dances.

The production number included tribal dances of the Aytas of Central Luzon and the Igorots of Northern Luzon, a rural dance of Bulacan and a specially choreographed ethnic-inspired grand finale to portray this year's SEAG theme "one heritage, one South East Asia."

Arreza expressed elation over the cooperation and support that the SBMA has been getting from local government units (LGUs) and educational institutions all over Luzon. He said that such an international event should bring people together regardless of their location.

"This kind of cooperation and support echoes the SEA Games message that we are of one heritage," he said.

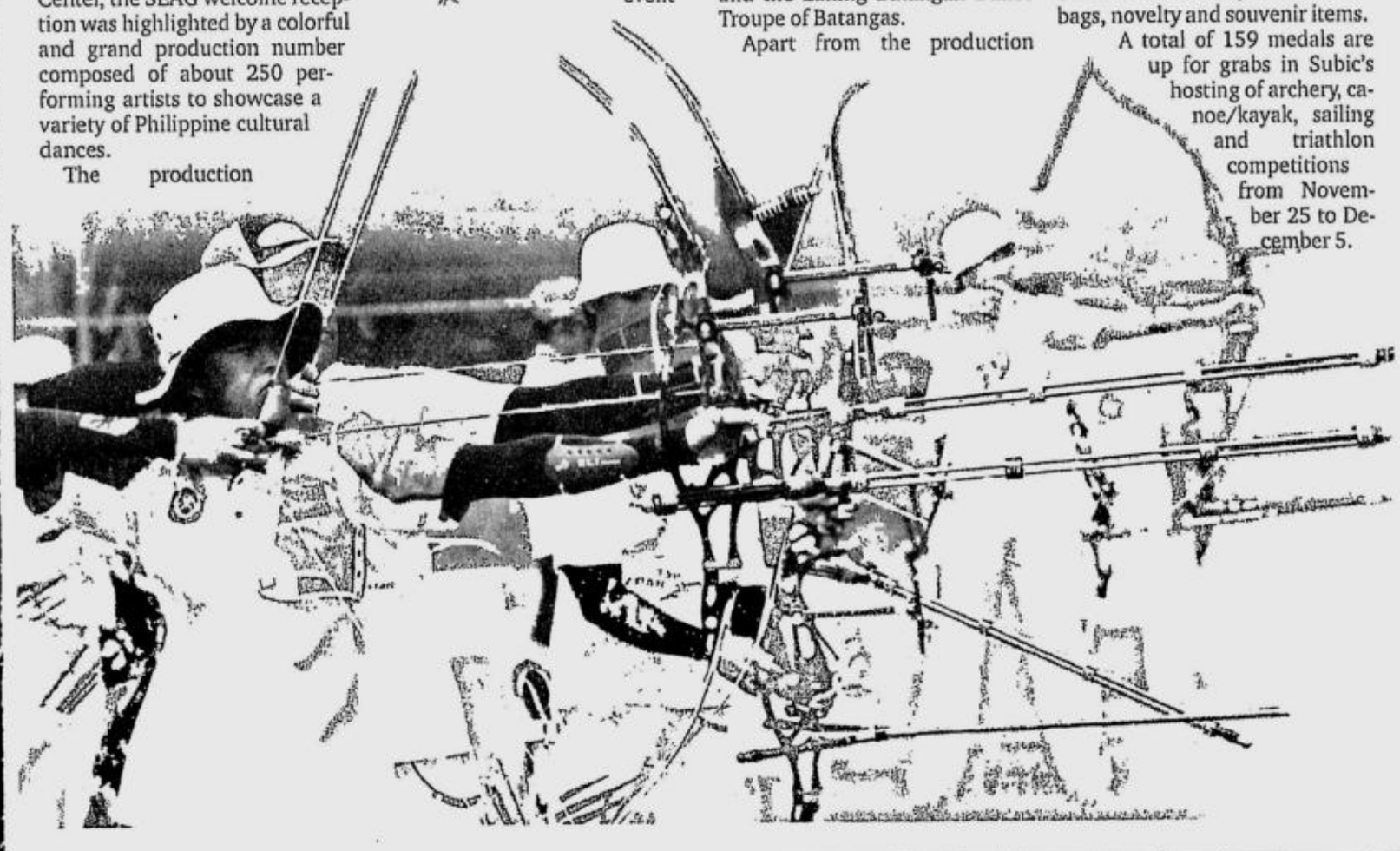
The Àyta dance, performed by Teatro Gat'Aitab of Mondriaan Aura College in Subic Bay, featured dancers from the indigenous community here, the Pastolan Aytas. Other groups performing in the welcome ceremony were the Olongapo City National High School-School for Performing Arts (OCNHS-SPA), the Sining Bulakenyo of Bulacan and the Lahing Batangan Dance Troupe of Batangas.

Apart from the production number, a 50-member drum and lyre corps from different elementary schools in Olongapo City ushered in delegates during the welcome ceremony.

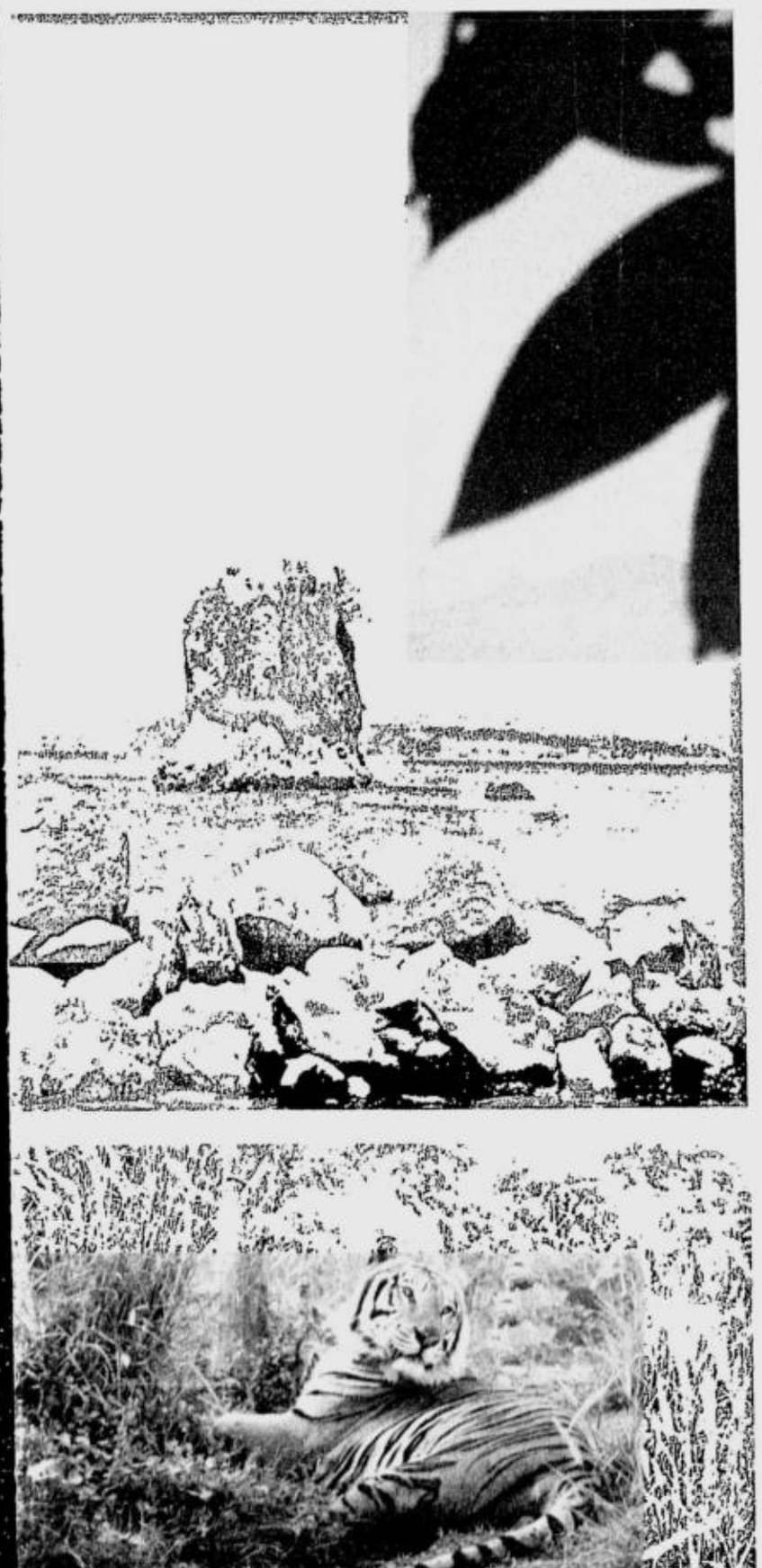
Meanwhile, Senior Deputy Administrator for Administration Ramon de Leon, Philsoc-SBMA Secretariat Over-All Chairman, added that a trade fair was also opened to add to the festive mood during Subic's hosting of the SEAG.

The trade fair showcases various products from all over Luzon, ranging from food items to non-food like wooden carvings and other handicrafts, hand-made bags, novelty and souvenir items.

A total of 159 medals are up for grabs in Subic's hosting of archery, canoe/kayak, sailing and triathlon competitions from November 25 to December 5.



'This kind of cooperation and support echoes the SEA Games message that we are of one heritage'



SUBIC BAY X'MAS FESTIVAL

An additional treat for the SEA Games visitors and athletes

WHAT HAS BEEN SUBIC'S MAJOR crowd-drawer during the holiday season promises SEA Games spectators and players alike additional fun and bargain surprises.

The Christmas festival and bazaar, now on its seventh consecutive year, is dubbed as "Panibagong Gimik sa Ikapitong Hirit." The annual Freeport Christmas treat, consisting of carnival rides and a flea market or tiangge, has become a byword among Subic community residents who look forward to its opening day every year.

As in the past years, the festival will run for 60 days, from Nov. 24, 2005 to Jan. 2, 2006. The event is held. at what is now called the Freeport Service Corporation's (FSC) Activity Plaza, the helipad area located behind the FSC administration building.

The place is now bursting at the seams night after night with loyal patrons and eager bargain hunters who wish to avoid the crowded malls and tiangges in Metro Manila.

Evening entertainment

The 2005 Christmas festival offers absolute entertainment for everyone. It features food plazas, dry goods night bazaar, amusement facilities and carnival rides, and nightly entertainment. Popular movie and television personalities, as well as local artists, also add glitz and glamour to the festival.

Among the events and activities included in this year's festival schedule are singing contests like the "Gay Diva?" and the Videoke Challenge, talent and popularity tilts like the Little Ms. Subic Bay, and dance contests like Subic Dance Myx and Harlem Dance Contest.

Better appeal

According to FSC officials, they introduced innovations this year to make the festivity more enjoyable and interesting for all, with the layout of the bazaar and entertainment areas redesigned to make them more appealing to visitors of all ages.

The selection process for exhibitors and stall owners has also been overhauled, requiring stringent screening of bidders for the carnival to ensure that the rides are safe.

Furthermore, FSC officials stressed they are enforcing the necessary quality standards for the facilities and have installed additional security measures for the safety of festival patrons.

With a more organized set-up, thousands of people are expected flock to the festival night after night, even on weekdays and especially for the duration of the SEA Games in Subic.

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

DATE	TIME	SPORT	ACTIVITY/FUNCTION	VENUE
Nov5-9	7am - 5pm	Archery	Arrival of Athletes	Staggered basis
Nov18-19	6am - 11am	Triathlon	Dry Run	Football & Remy Fields
20-Nov	8am - 5pm	Archery	Test Race	Boardwalk, CBD Roads
Nov21-26		Canoe/ Kayak	Practice for Local/Foreign Teams	Football Field
Nov21-28			Arrival of Delegates	
22-Nov	4pm		National Torch Relay	Remy Field
24-Nov	8am		Flag Raising Ceremony	Bldg. 229
			Volunteer's Day Celebration	
			Foot Parade to Volunteers Park	
	4pm		SEA Games Welcome Reception	Remy Field
	8pm		SEA Games Barrio Fiesta for Delegates	Boardwalk
	7pm		Volunteer's Night	Volunteer's Shrine
	9am-10pm		SEA Games Trade Fair	Softball Field
	9am-3pm		Job Fair 2005	FSC Parking Grounds
	9:30-10:30am		Stationing of Signages	Main Gate & Bldg.608
	10am		Ribbon Cutting/Opening of Trade Fair	Softball Field
	10:30am-12NN		Awarding of Ten Outstanding Freeport Workforce	Legenda Hotel
				Legenda Hotel
			Awarding of Freeport Corporate Partners	Boardwalk
Nov25-27			Karakoa Festival	2nd Fr., Boathouse
26-Nov	7pm	Sailing	Measurement Launch Area	
			Team Manager's Meeting	
	8pm		Chromedia, Inc.	Subic Gym Parking Area
			Parokya ni Edgar Concert	
27-Nov	10am - 12nn	Archery	SEA Games Opening Ceremony	Manila
			Team Manager's Meeting	Subic Bay Freeport
	10am	Canoe/Kayak	Competitor's Briefing	2nd Fr., Boathouse
	2pm		Practice Races	Subic Bay
	4pm		Welcome Ceremony	Tennis Court, SBYC
	6pm		Media Night	Magic Lagoon
Nov28-Dec3	8am - 4pm	Sailing	Racing All Classes	Subic Bay
28-Nov	8am - 15:30pm	Archery	Official Practice & Equipment Inspection	Football Field
	8am - 11:30am		Women Recurve & Men Compound	
	12nn-15:30pm		Women Compound & Men Recurve	
29-Nov	8am - 5pm	Archery	Qualification Round, Long Distances	Football Field
	8am - 8:45pm		Check-in Practice	
	9am - 11:30am		Women Recurve & Men Compound	
	1pm -1:45pm		Qualification Round, Long Distances	
	2pm - 4:30pm		Women Compound & Men Recurve	
Nov29 - 30	8am-5pm	Canoe/Kayak	Boat Control & Training	Malawaan
30-Nov	8am-4:30pm	Archery	Qualification Round, Short Distances	Football Field
	8am - 8:45pm		Check-in Practice	
	9am - 11:30am		Women Recurve & Men Compound	
	1pm -1:45am		Check-in Practice	
	2pm -4:30pm		Women Compound & Men Recurve	
1-Dec	8am-10am	Canoe/Kayak	Training	Malawaan
	10am-12nn		Dry Run	
	10am		Team Leader's Meeting	
	6:30am - 9:30am	Triathlon	Female Division Race	Boardwalk, CBD Roads
	10am		Awarding Ceremony	Boardwalk
	8am -15:30pm	Archery	Elimination Round	Football Field
2-Dec	7am - 9am	Canoe/Kayak	Opening Ceremony	Malawaan
	9am - 10:50pm		Race	Malawaan
	3pm		South East Asian Canoe Congress	Malawaan
	6:30am - 9:30am	Triathlon	Male Division Race	Boardwalk, CBD Roads
	10am		Awarding Ceremony	Boardwalk
	8am - 15:55pm	Archery	Quarter Final Round	Remy Field
3-Dec	9am - 10:50pm	Canoe/Kayak	Race	Malawaan
	8am - 10:55am	Archery	Semi Final - All Divisions	Remy Field
	13:30pm - 15:50pm		Final Round - All Divisions	
	6pm	Salling	Awarding & Closing Ceremonies	Poolside, SBYC
4-Dec	8am - 4pm	Archery	Team Finals	Remy Field
	5pm		Awarding Ceremony	
	9am - 10:40am	Canoe/Kayak	Race - Finals	Malawaan
	10:50am - 12nn		Awarding Ceremonies	
5-Dec		Canoe/Kayak	Closing Ceremony	Malawaan

Ready for the Games

Preparations for the 23rd SEA Games all went well. Even the First Gentleman was impressed.

By Ruben Veloria

First Gentleman Mike Arroyo visited this satellite venue for the 23rd Southeast Asian Games and left visibly impressed with the preparations here and the performance of Philippine athletes in training.

Mr. Arroyo, who made the rounds of the SEA Games sites for archery, canoe/kayak, sailing and triathlon in the Subic Bay Freeport Zone, said he was "very satisfied" with what he saw.

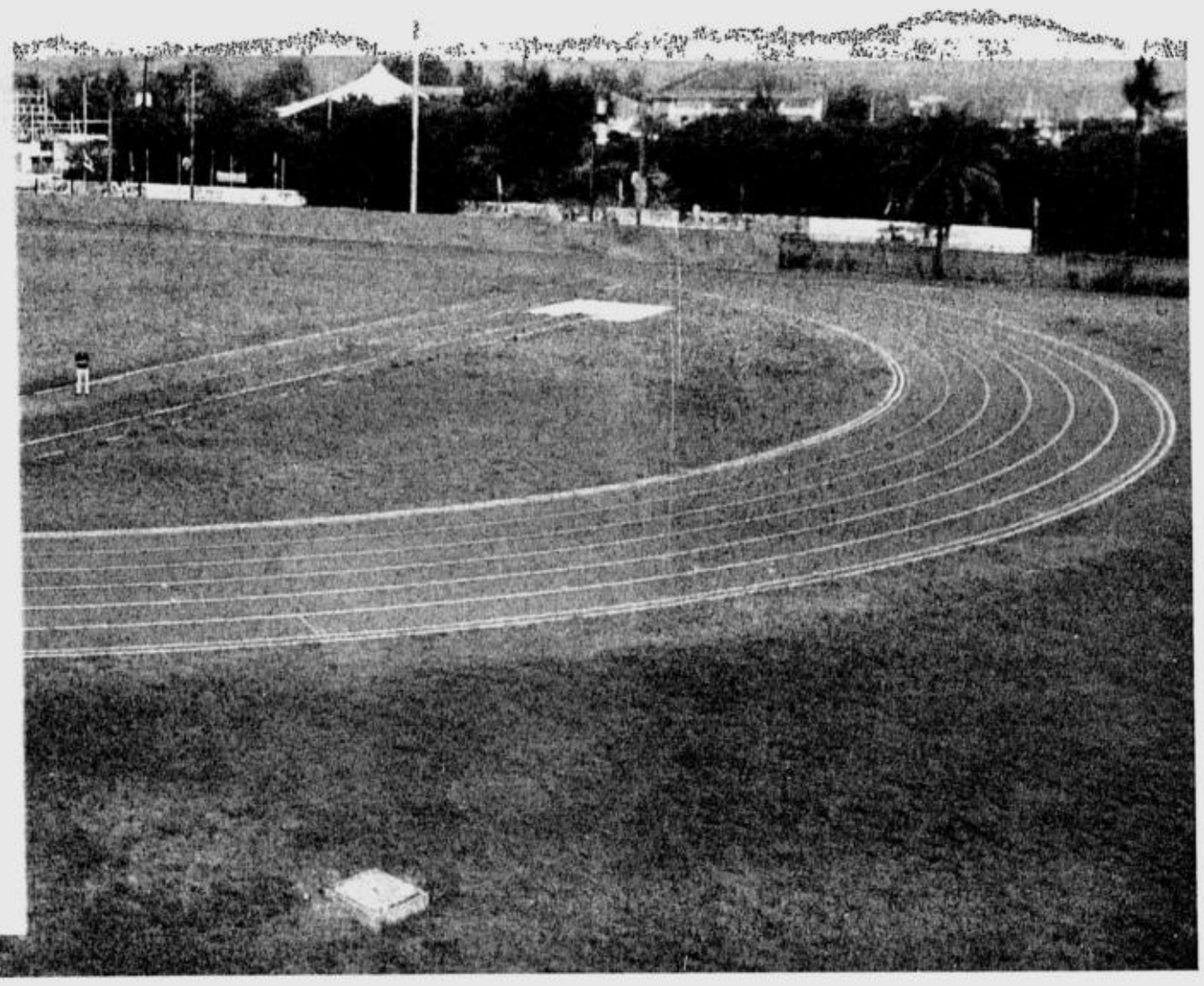
Officials of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) led by Chairman Feliciano Salonga and Administrator Armand Arreza gave the First Gentlemen a tour of the sports venues: Remy Field for archery, Malawaan Bay for kayaking, and the Boardwalk Park where the triathlon event will start and finish. The waterfront park will also serve as spectators' area for the sailing event in Subic Bay.

Subic SEA Games Organizing Committee (SubicSoc) chairman Ramon de Leon told the distinguished visitor that the SBMA is doing what it can to make all facilities ready for the SEA Games athletes. "Subic is ready," SBMA officials assured the First Gentleman.

"Definitely, our country is very much ready for the games," Arroyo said. "Our athletes are showing high level of confidence and they are doing these not for themselves but for the country."

Arroyo also took time to meet with members of the Philippine teams that were practicing in Subic. Watching four members of the RP archery team release 36 arrows from a distance of 75 meters and seeing 28 of them hit the bull's eye, Arroyo predicted that the local archers would reap at least half of the gold medals. "But I know you all vie for the first place," he told the archers whose women component held the top slot in the Asian Grand Prix and the fifth in the 2005 world championship last June in Madrid.

Pedero Cortez Jr., head coach for the archers, shared the First Gentleman's enthusiasm for the athletes. "We are promising you our all-bull's eye shots during the games," Cortez retorted.



Hometown Gold?

Will home court advantage again give Team Philippines a big boost?

Hosting a competition like the Southeast Asian Games has decidedly given favor to host countries because of the so-called home court advantage. Some ascribe it to the psychological superiority of knowing that you're in your own turf; others to the fact that local athletes get to practice in the venues early on, thereby familiarizing themselves better with the terrain.

In the 22nd SEAG, host country Vietnam became the runaway winner - hauling a total of 158 gold medals, 97 silver, and 91 bronze. Second-placer Thailand brought home a gold-silver-bronze tally of 90-93-98; followed by Indonesia with a 56-68-98 GSB count. The Philippines, meanwhile, finished fourth with a 48-54-75 GSB harvest, thereby displacing defending champion Malaysia (44-42-59) who settled for the fifth slot.

The RP delegation to the Vietnam SEAG excelled in 15 sports and collected more gold medals from non-traditional sports. Six of RP's golds came from wushu; five from taekwondo; four each from swimming, fencing and wrestling; and three each from chess and judo. Meanwhile, gymnastics and billiards yielded two golds each, while basketball, boxing, boat race, cycling, karate, rowing and shooting produced only one gold apiece.

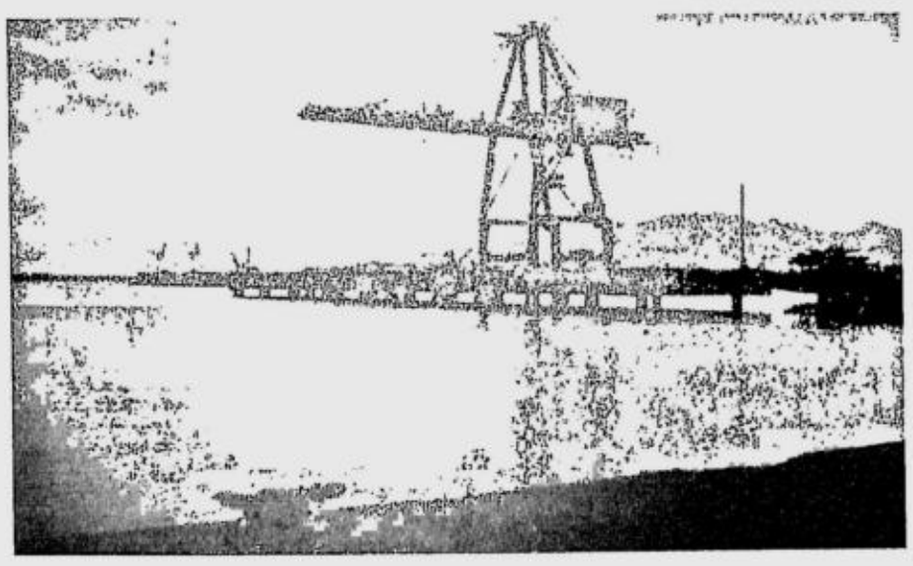
Like Vietnam, the Philippines had managed an outstanding SEAG finish when it hosted he event in Manila in 1991. Still, that year's GSB record of 91-69-89 fell two golds shy of beating Team Indonesia for the top slot, home court advantage to the Philippine team notwithstanding.

From the 1991 all-time-high medal tally of 249, Philippine performance in the SEA Games thereafter went on a roller-coaster ride: down to 176 in the 17th SEAG in Singapore; 143 in Chiang Mai, Thailand in 1995; up again to 209 in Jakarta in 1997; down to a dismal 87 in Brunei in 1999; then resuming the climb to 163 in Malaysia in 2001, and 179 in Vietnam in 2003.

For this year's event, Team Philippines hopes to gain more glory from the SEA Games, making the local athletes train hard both here and abroad under experienced coaches. The rigorous training should even it out for the home team, as a new rule - which aims to level the playing field in the often hotly contested SEA Games - is put in place.

The new rule is actually intended to respond to a perceived anomaly: Because fringe and rarely-practiced sports have been included by SEA Games hosts, or that hosts tended to emphasize events where their teams were most proficient, host countries often ended up getting more medals than the other competitors. Because of this, SEA Games Federation officials have voted in 2003 to require that at least four countries should enter an event before the sports can be included in the games.

The new rule takes effect in the 2005 SEAG. So now it's hello to arnis, the traditional Filipino sport of stick-fighting, which makes its debut in the 23rd SEAG. But it's goodbye to shuttlecock kicking, which Vietnam introduced when it hosted the games in 2003. - Henry Empeño



As a biennial sports spectacular, the SEA Games had become a showcase of sporting skills. It also served to introduce new forms of sports that may later find their way into the mainstream.

Going for Gold

From page G2

named America. The yacht was sailed to England where it won a trophy called the Hundred Guineas Cup, after a race around the Isle of Wight. The trophy was later renamed The America's Cup, after the yacht, not after the United States, as is commonly thought.

Today, the trend in sailing has been towards smaller boats, with fewer crewmembers. In some of the early Olympics, as many as 10-12 sailors manned the boats.

In the 2000 Sydney Games, only one event had a three-person crew (Soling), while six events were contested by lone sailors.

Eleven gold medals will be up for grabs for the sailing events in Subic. These will be for the following categories: optimist (boys/girls), hobie cat open (mixed), international 420 (boys/girls), international 470 (men/women), laser (men), laser radial (women), Olympic one-design HW (men), and Olympic one-design LW (men).

Triathlon

This unique sporting event combines swimming, cycling, and running one after the other.

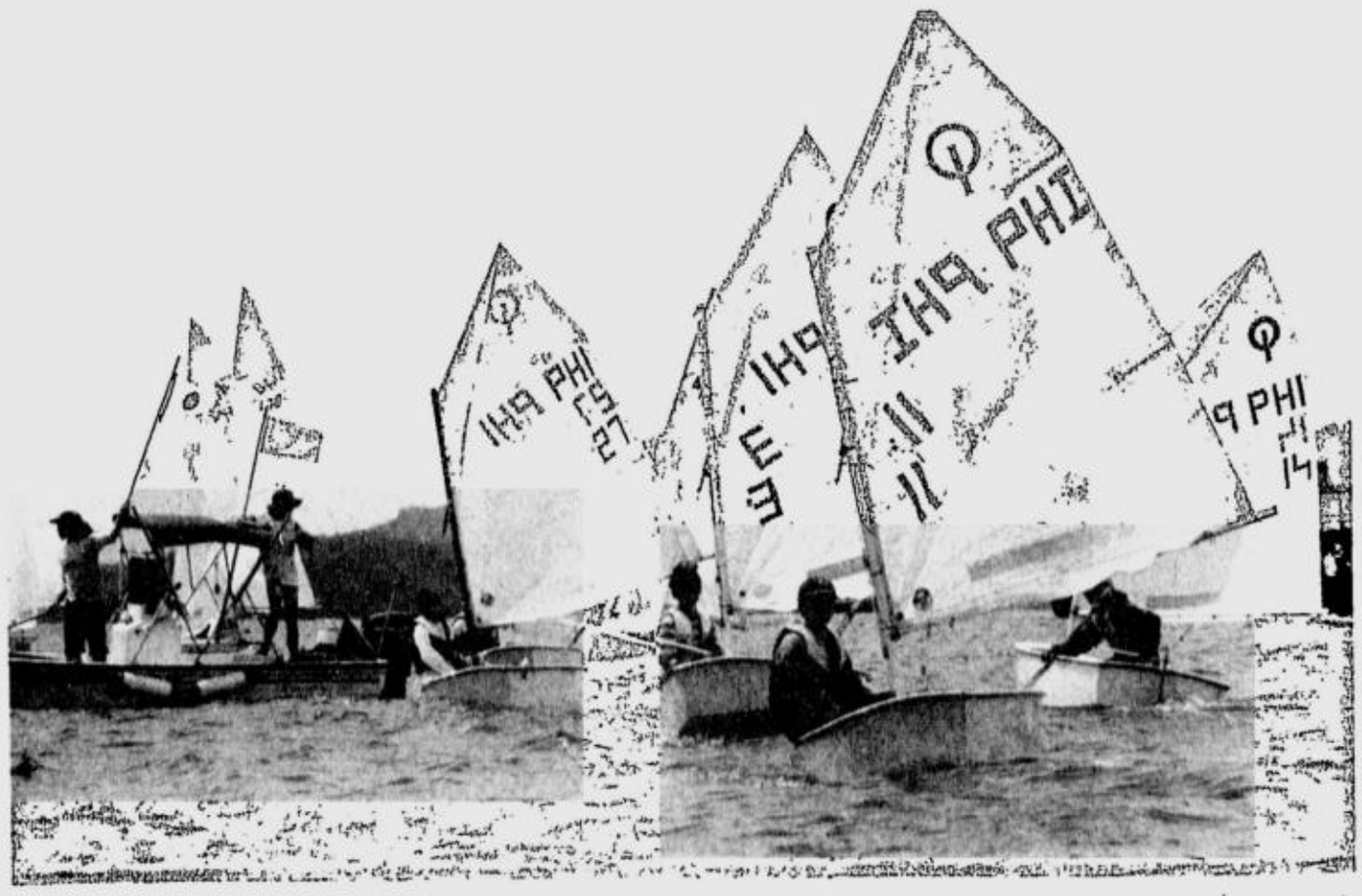
Triathlon was first organized on September 27, 1974, in Mission Bay in San Diego, California. The first triathlon world championship was staged in Avignon, France in May 1989. It formally became part of the Olympic program in 1994, and made its debut at the 2000 Olympics in Sydney.

The event involves a spectacular mass start from a beach, either in the water or from a floating pontoon. After swimming, which is simply a "warm up" process for cycling and running, the athletes head to the transition zone, pick up their bicycles and start cycling to cover a certain distance (40 km in an Olympic triathlon).

Cycling - and running, which forms the tail end of the competition - is usually held in some mountainous area of the sporting site. The running lap brings the competitors back to the same area where the event has started.

For triathlon, two (2) gold medals will be given away, one each for the men's and women's individual events.

With Henry Empeño



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Special PROJECT

PCS conducts 61st Annual Clinical Congress

December 4 - 7, 2005
Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, Mandaluyong City

THE BALLROOM OF THE EDSA SHANGRI-LA Hotel in Mandaluyong City will be filled with warm bodies as the Philippine College of Surgeons (PCS) conducts its 61st Annual Clinical Congress on December 4-7, 2005. As an added treat, the Society of Philippine Surgeons in America (SPSA) has decided to join the PCS in this celebration - aside from contributing to the Speakers' pool, they will conduct their convention within the congress. The Convention Committee chaired by Dr. Eduardo Gatchalian has assembled a powerhouse faculty of foreign and local experts to enlighten participants about this year's theme: "Changing Directions in Surgery". The scientific program in the form of Plenary Sessions, "Kapihan" and "Tanghalian" Panel Discussions, Lay Fora, Presentation of Research Papers, Cine Clinics, and Interactive Sessions will tackle current changes in the management of surgical diseases, technological advances to enhance patient care, the macro vision of our national health agenda, and a holistic approach to excellent health care delivery considering the effects of globalization and the continuing Filipino human health resource diaspora.

This four-day conference will also highlight how the PCS is fulfilling its Mission-Vision via a Photo Contest cum exhibit - documenting "The Surgeon at Work"; winning entries will receive valuable prizes and will be featured in the 2007 PCS Calendar. The Scientific and Cultural Exhibits will showcase the efforts of the PCS Chapters and Friends of the PCS in responding to the need for efficient delivery of surgical care nationwide. A Poster Presentation of the research output from the various training institutions nationwide will likewise be featured.

The Social Calendar is likewise hectic. This annual gathering of surgeons in the spirit of fellowship and camaraderie through continuing surgical education will climax in a Fellowship Night on December 4, to be hosted by Mr. Jon Lapuz, who, together with Ms. Vernie Varga and the Men in White Band, will provide the evening's entertainment. The election of the 2006 PCS Board of Regents on the second day of the Congress will signal the smooth transfer of power, responsibilities and obligations to the new leaders. The Induction and Ball on December 6 will feature the en masse swearing in of all 2006 national and chapter officers; this will facilitate the implementation of programs by the new leaders as early as January 2006. Meanwhile, the various surgical societies under the umbrella of the PCS, with the approach of the Yuletide season, will conduct their annual meetings and fellowship parties within the congress.

The organizers have seen to it that the needs, wants and expectations of the participants are addressed. Arrangements have been made to make the venue accessible, safe and amiable; the surrounding establishments are prepared to cater to the whims of the participants with some discounts thrown along the way. The stage has been set for the mind, body and spirit!

BOARD OF REGENTS, 2005
Shown are (seated, from left): Doctors Stephen S. Siguan, Regent; Armando C. Crisostomo, Treasurer; Eduardo R. Gatchalian, Vice President; Arturo S. de la Peña, President; Rey Melchor F. Santos, Secretary; Alex A. Erasmo and Maximo H. Simbulan Jr., Regents; (standing from left): Doctors Florencio Q. Lucero, Jesus V. Valencia, Alejandro R. Garcia, Ray B. Malilay, Josefina R. Almonte, Alfred H. Belmonte, Edgardo T. Tan, and Isaac David E. Ampil II, Regents.

PCS CHAPTER PRESIDENTS, 2005

- Alfredo M. Igama, MD - Cordillera Chapter
- Rex A. Madrigal, MD - Bicol Chapter
- Jackson D. Soriano, MD - Northern Luzon Chapter
- Elvis L. Bedia, MD - Southern Tagalog Chapter
- Rolando L. Canivel, MD - Central Luzon Chapter
- Vedasto B. Lim, MD - Metro Manila Chapter
- Maribel O. Du, MD - Cebu-Eastern Visayas Chapter
- Noel G. Binayas, MD - Panay Chapter
- Dures Fe D.E. Tagayuna, MD - Northern Mindanao Chapter
- Rolando A. Chiu, MD - Davao Southern Mindanao Chapter
- Ricardo Paulo J. Yusay, MD - Negros Occidental Chapter

BOARD OF GOVERNORS, 2005
Shown are (seated from left): Doctors Michael E. Martinez, Governor; Maximino Dy-R. Elgar, Vice Chairman; Gabriel L. Martinez, Chairman; Lynne Lourdes N. Lucena, Secretary; and Enrico P. Ragaza, Governor; (standing from left): Doctors Beda R. Espineda, Joselito M. Mendoza, Felix P. Nolasco, Hector M. Santos Jr., Conrado M. Andal, and Omarbasha S. Lucman, Governors. Not in picture: Doctors Domingo O. Amistad, Vicenia S. Balajo, Gregorio Angel C. Canga, George Winston B. Estera, Cecilio Vicente T. Gempesaw, Reginald V. Hao, Ronald E. Kempis, Aquileo C. Rico, Michael Siu Gak Y. Leh, and Ronald A. Yutangco, Governors.

SPEAKERS ROW

ASHOK B. SHAHA M.S. (Surg), MD, FACS
Professor of Surgery
Cornell University Medical Center, New York

MICHAEL ARGUS, MB, FRACS, FRCSI, Area Director, Trauma Services, Senior Staff Specialist in Surgery, Associate Prof. of Surgery University of New South Wales Liverpool Hospital Sydney, Australia

MARK WILLIAM BOWYER, MD, FACS
Associate Professor of Surgery Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences Bethesda, Maryland

RICHARD R. LOVE, MD
Professor
Departments of Medicine and Family Medicine University of Wisconsin - Madison
Madison, Wisconsin USA

JEFFREY M. HAMMOND MBBS, PhD, FRACS
Associate Professor of Surgery
Surgical Education
Wembley, Western Australia

EU KONG WENG, MD, MBBS, FRCS (Edin), M Med (Surg)
Head and Senior Consultant, Director, Cancer Research Lab , Singapore General Hospital, Singapore

REX B. MARK, MD, FACS
Consultant in Urology
Edinburgh Regional Hospital
Texas

ADARSH CHAUDHARY, MD, FICS
Consultant Surgeon,
Department of Gastrointestinal Surgery, Gobind Ballabh Nehru Marg, New Delhi, India

SAMUEL KWOK, MBBS, FRC... (Edin), FRACS
Director, Minimally Invasive and Endoscopic Surgery Center
Hong Kong Sanatorium & Hospital
Happy Valley, Hong Kong

ROMAN CHUA, MD, FACS
General, Vascular and Laparoscopic Surgeon
Sinai Samaritan Medical Center
Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA

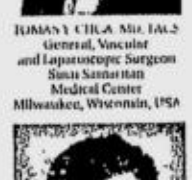
MD, FACS
Medical Director, Antelope Valley Medical College
Lancaster, California

PROF SAMUEL KS IAW MD
Subang Jaya Medical Center
Subang Jaya, Petaling Jaya
Selangor Darul Ehsan, Malaysia

EDWARD E. QUIROS, MD, MBA, FACS, FICS
Consultant, Hand and Upper Extremity Surgery, Pampa Regional Medical Center
Pampa, Texas

MARIO CHIMINI MD
International Medical Director
Mundi Pharma
Switzerland

ARTURO S. DE LA PEÑA, MD, FPCS, FACS
Associate Professor of Surgery
College of Medicine
University of the Philippines
Manila, Philippines



NARCISO S. NAVARRO JR., MD, FPCS, FACS
Chairman, Department of Surgery
San Tomas University Hospital
Manila, Philippines

ALLAN R. MELIGOR, MD, FPCS
Director of Corporate Affairs
Bethel Baptist Hospital
Malaybalay, Bukidnon

JOSE Z. GALVEZ, MD, MPH
Vice Chancellor for Research
University of the Philippines
Executive Director
National Institutes of Health
Philippines

A pole stands in front of a barber's shop, a swirl of white and red ribbons and a sphere at the top of the monument. The white and red ribbons signify the bandages and the blood that flows after a "surgical" procedure and the sphere the bowl by which a barber "operates".

Ten months after the inauguration of our commonwealth status, on September 12, 1936, an organizational meeting that was to spawn the genesis of a supreme surgical league, was held at the Hospital de San Juan de Dios in Intramuros, Manila. The meeting was called by Dr. Gregorio T. Singian, considered the foremost Filipino master of the scalpel during his time, to establish a league of surgeons that was fervently named the Philippine College of Surgeons (PCS). In attendance were 35 distinguished and venerable pioneers of the Art. The PCS is neither a school nor a college, neither a hospital nor an academy. It is a fellowship of surgeons who practice the ideals of ethical surgery utilizing the highest standards of surgical care available by relentlessly upgrading their skills through continuing surgical education.

On October 10, 1936, with the approval of its By-Laws, the PCS got underway and was installed as the national pillar of Philippine surgery. Interrupted only by the Pacific War, the organization governed by the 15-member Board of Regents, met on a regular schedule to establish norms to form and polish physicians into extraordinary surgeons, educators and scientists. It has numerous committees that study particular aspects of surgery and recommend improvements in organizational performance.

"Distinguish." The Philippine College of Surgeons makes no bones about the fact that it is an exclusive enclave of surgeons. To be accepted into the College, the surgeon who has undergone years of medical training and validation must apply to the College. The surgeon should be of high ethical and professional standing in his community. His training program should be recognized and accredited by the appropriate organization of the chosen field of specialization. The candidate should pass the certifying examinations of the specialty board of the chosen field. Peer acceptance via the endorsement of the local chapter and by the specialty society is needed. The candidate pledges to maintain the noble traditions of medicine, value the welfare of the patients above all, seek advancement in knowledge and willingly extend a hand to colleagues who request help, consecrate oneself to the service of human life and be a dutiful citizen of the Republic of the Philippines. The candidate is welcomed into the College and rightfully adds "Fellow, Philippine College of Surgeons (FPCS)" to his name. Fellowship implies surgical competence, safety and ethical conduct consistent with the high standards established by the College.

"Establish." The doctor that wields the knife is a surgeon. There are, however, various surgeons. Since 1945, twenty surgical organizations have been established under the aegis of the PCS. Their rules are stringent and their standards are high. They certify and attest to the competence of their members as Diplomates of the specialty and thereafter endorse them to become Fellows of the PCS.

"Polish." The road to surgery is long and may be difficult. There are principles to learn, techniques to remember, a discipline to master. And there are masters to learn the discipline from. Various hospitals all over the country have established training programs precisely for this purpose--to train and produce accomplished surgeons. There are guidelines and minimum requirements set by the Committee on Accreditation for each specialty to follow. In the same fashion, the various organizations of the different surgical specialties monitor and supervise the programs that mold the young physician in their chosen field of specialization.

"Publish." The fledgling organization of the PCS had members to inform and instruct. By July 1946, the first Philippine Journal of Surgery saw print. Through the years it has gone through several names, several changes. Currently on its 60th volume, the Philippine Journal for Surgical Specialties (PJSS) is published quarterly by the PCS and contains the output of fellows and residents training in surgery. Between the sleek covers of metallic silver are names of the present and future luminaries of surgery in our country plus foreign peer reviewers. Other publications include Evidence-based Clinical Practice Guidelines in Surgery, Manual for Primary Care Physicians, Standardized Surgical Curriculum and Evaluation System, Research Methodology and Critical Appraisal of Research Papers, and numerous surgical manuscripts and posters on the advocacies of the College.

"Nourish." The Philippine Journal of Surgery, together with a newsletter from the college kept members abreast of news of surgery here in our country. As the PCS grew, its members clamored for a forum by which they could seek answers to problems that the surgeons encounter in their areas of practice. There were surgeons, too, who wished to share their knowledge and expertise. Two years after the war, in December 1947, the First Surgical Congress was organized and held at the Philippine General Hospital and the Santo Tomas University Hospital. Since then a yearly surgical congress or annual convention has nourished the questing minds of the PCS Fellows. Foreign guests and speakers complement the numerous local expert surgeons. A midyear convention convened intentionally out of the National Capital Region keeps fellows abreast of local trends in surgery.

In addition to the year-end annual convention and the midyear convention, the PCS sponsors and organizes the numerous workshops, courses and fora that are all dedicated to the advancement of one's knowledge, quenching the thirst for excellence in surgery.

"Flourish." The PCS has a current roster of more than 2,000 Fellows scattered all over the archipelago. Considering the geographical regions of our country and the difficulty in monitoring fellows' activities in different regions, chapters were created in 1965. The 11th and youngest chapter is the Cordillera Chapter, born from the Northern Luzon Chapter in 1998. This chapter boasts of 47 fellows spread in its mountainous region. The Northern Luzon, Central Luzon, and Southern Tagalog Chapters account for about a collective seventeen percent of the present membership. At the tip of Luzon Island, the Bicol Chapter counts 38 fellows in its list. The Davao Southern Mindanao together with the Northern Mindanao Chapter has 182 fellows in the largest island of our country. The scattered islands of the Visayas have prompted the creation of three chapters, the Cebu Eastern Visayas, Negros Occidental and the Panay Chapters composed of 266 fellows. Fifty-five percent or nearly 1200 fellows are in the National Capital Region.

"Respond." The PCS cares for the general welfare of its members via various programs like the Fellows Assistance Plan and legal aid program. It monitors and analyzes the effects of legislative and regulatory issues affecting stakeholders in the field of surgery while participating in the development of surgeon-oriented national health policies. Moreover, it has partnered with government on issues involving the environment, poverty alleviation, public information and education, bringing surgical services to the underserved areas and population control. Further, it has entered into various Memoranda of Agreement to extend free surgical services to our men in uniform and mediamen injured in the line of duty; to share expertise during disasters and calamities; and to provide trained surgical human resources in underserved regions of the country.

When one then tries to understand the "passion" behind this benevolent organization, one becomes dumbfounded; when all others are taking the much easier paths, the PCS continues to standout as a bulwark of excellence in surgical care in our country. This phenomenon though somewhat beyond reason, is most beneficial for our much-neglected and surgically-famished country. All of these were envisioned by our founders with the overpowering mission to provide the highest quality of surgical care to Filipino patients.

Dr. Onofre R. Pagsanghan

Dr. Gregorio T. Singian Memorial Lecturer

'Teachers make other professions possible.'

- On a T-shirt that Dr. Pagsanghan wore to a Dulaang Sibol practice

Dr. Onofre R. Pagsanghan, this year's Gregorio T. Singian Memorial Lecturer has devoted his entire life to teaching. If others are called to a life of the religious, Dr. Pagsanghan has his own calling as an educator. For the past 54 years, he has taught at the Ateneo de Manila High School, teaching English and Filipino. He teaches with a passion that stirs and extracts from his students excellence and exactness.

Dr. Pagsanghan was born in Manila to Hipolito and Vicenta Pagsanghan on June 12, 1927. He graduated from Ateneo de Manila High School in 1947. He finished his Bachelor of Arts major in Education in 1951 and his Master of Arts in English Literature in 1984, both from the Ateneo de Manila University. He was awarded an honorary PhD in Humane Letters by the same university in 1991, by Ateneo de Naga on March 19, 2005 and by the Far Eastern University on April 11, 2005.

Since 1951, he has taught at the Ateneo de Manila High School. He has been Chairman of the Filipino Department for 25 years. He has also served as a member of the University's Board of Trustees for three years. In 1956, he founded the Dramatics Club of the Ateneo de Manila High School, directing big productions such as Macbeth, The Merchant of Venice, Julius Cesar, and Cyrano de Bergerac among others.

In 1966, from the dramatics club was born the "Dulaang Sibol" which has been described by National Artist Leonor Orosa Goquingco as high school theatre with "professional polish". For Dulaang Sibol, Dr. Pagsanghan has translated and adapted numerous Western plays into Filipino such as Jean Anouilh's Antigone, Buon Po Sa Amin (Thornton Wilder's Our Town), Wala Sa Ating Mga Bituin (J.M. Barrie's Dear Brutus). He has co-authored with his students Adarna and Sa Kaharian ng Araw. Santa, his adaptation of 'Tom Jones' The Fantastiks has to date more than 140 performances, making it one of the longest running plays in Philippine theatre history.

Under Dr Pagsanghan's tutelage Dulaang Sibol has produced and staged numerous original Filipino plays, written by his very own high school students. Critic Alfredo Roces of the Manila Times recognized the effort as "the first important breakthrough for the national language" and Ilona Lumbera of the Free Press called it "a seminal force in the development of Filipino play writing". Noteworthy among these are Paul Dumol's Ang Paghitas ni Mang Serapio and Ang Puting Tanikalahan and Tony Perez's Hoy Boys .... And through all the performances of Dulaang Sibol, whether a play, a musical, a recital, a choral recitation or a choral interpretation, the former Florinda Duran, his wife of 46 years, sits and watches in the audience.

Besides theater, Dr. Pagsanghan encouraged musical compositions in Filipino to promote love of the national language. And who does not know or have not heard of "Hindi Kita Malilimutan"? The music was composed by Manoling Francisco, now with the Society of Jesus while the lyrics were a collaboration of 40 some boys in Dr. Pagsanghan's first year class. More than a hundred of original Filipino songs were and are still being written in Dulaang Sibol.

Dr. Pagsanghan founded the Knights of the Sacred Heart in the Holy Trinity Parish in Baliuag in 1948 and worked for the organization for some 15 years. The organization composed of underprivileged boys has produced to date seven ordained priests. The seminary studies of three of these priests were partly subsidized by earnings of annual plays produced by Dr. Pagsanghan.

Dr. Pagsanghan has authored Hasik and Makabagong Pilipino, textbooks used in several high schools. He has also written Reaching Out and Sagwan, also for high school use. He has lectured all over the country, literally from Aparri to Jolo on education topics, specifically "Teaching as A Vocation." Dr. Pagsanghan has also received several travel-study grants from the Ford Foundation, British Council, UNESCO, Japan Foundation and New York University.

Dr. Pagsanghan's zeal and dedication to his profession and chosen vocation has not been unnoticed. He has received several awards and recognitions:

- C.A.T. Best Educational Television Program Awards for a televised series of lessons in Filipino in 1964;
- OZANAM Award for Outstanding Service as a Catholic Teacher from the Ateneo de Manila University in 1970;
- PATNUBAY NG KALINANGAN Award for national contribution in the field of theater from the City of Manila in 1970;
- GAWAD BALAGTAS for significant work in Philippine Theater from the Surian ng Wikang Pambansa in 1970;
- FAMAS Best Musical Film Award for Santa from FAMAS in 1976;
- First IRWIN MEMORIAL Award for excellence in the teaching profession from the Ateneo de Manila University in 1977;
- EAGLE FUND TEACHER Award for excellence in the teaching profession from the Ateneo de Manila University every year from its inception in 1980 up to present;
- METROBANK 10 OUTSTANDING EDUCATORS Award for excellence as a high school teacher in 1985, the first year of the Metrobank Awards;
- GAWAD PAMBANSANG ALAGAD NI BALAGTAS from the Unyon ng Mga Manunulat sa Pilipinas in 1992;
- GAWAD CCP PARA SA SINING (DULAAN) from the Cultural Center of the Philippines in 1992;
- GAWAD MANUEL L. QUEZON FROM Quezon City and the Talaba ng Inang Wika in 1996;
- THE OUTSTANDING FILIPINO AWARD for 1996 in Culture and Arts from the JAYCEES and the Insular Life and Assurance Company;
- CENTENNIAL AWARD FOR ART AND CULTURE from the National Centennial Commission in 1999;
- GAWAD BAZ MARQUEZ BENITEZ for Outstanding Educator in Literature from the Unyon ng Mga Manunulat sa Pilipinas in August 2002;
- GAWAD GENY LOPEZ, JR. Bayaning Pilipino in April 2003;
- ACES Award for Teachers - Award for Continuing Excellence and Service from the Metrobank Foundation on February 9, 2004.

Nowadays, you might catch a glimpse of Mr Pagsi (as he is fondly called by his students) walking to the Ateneo early in the morning to teach. (He has, by the way, never seen the need to buy a car as he lives just across the Ateneo). Or in the late afternoon, you will find him conducting rehearsals seated on the floor on the stage at the Dulaang Sibol Theater (renamed by the university on July 27, 1996 as the Tanghalang Onofre R. Pagsanghan on the occasion of his 45th year as teacher at the Ateneo). Or you might find him talking to his former students who are now among others, artists, teachers, cabaret members, economists, engineers, lawyers, priests and surgeons. It is true teachers make other professions possible. For Dr. Onofre R. Pagsanghan, the years he has devoted to education has allowed hundreds of young men to achieve their dreams

PAST PRESIDENTS

Gregorio T. Singian, MD* 1936
Baldomero L. Roxas, MD* 1937-1944
Nicanor Jacinto, MD* 1945-1947
Januario R. Estrada, Sr., MD* 1948-1949
Basilio J. Valdez, MD* 1950-1951
Guillermo J. Rustia, MD* 1952
Gumersindo Garcia, Sr., MD* 1953
Fortunato S. Guerrero, Sr., MD* 1954-1955
Jose Y. Fores, MD* 1956-1957
Francisco C. de Guzman, MD* 1958-1959
Jaime E. Laico, MD* 1960
Luis F. Torres, Jr., MD* 1961-1962
Ricardo L. Alfonso, MD* 1962-1963
Enrique M. Garcia, MD* 1963-1964
Domingo T. Antonio, Jr., MD 1964
Ambrosio F. Tangco, MD* 1965
Romeo H. Gustilo, MD* 1966
Clemente R. Calma, MD* 1967
Jaime M. Aquino, MD 1968
Emilio C. Horilleno, MD* 1969
Pacifico C. Yap, MD 1970
Porfirio M. Recio, MD* 1971
Irineo M. Palma, MD* 1972
Antonio C. Oposa, MD 1973
Enrique S. Filart, MD* 1974
Augusto P. Sarmiento, MD 1975
Fidel Z. Cuajunco, Jr., MD* 1976
Felipe B. Constantino, MD* 1977
Crisostomo A. Arcilla, Sr., MD 1978
Cresencio R. Abes, MD 1979
Jose M. Pujalte, MD 1980
Alfredo T. Ramirez, MD* 1981
Avenilo P. Aventura, MD 1982
Teodoro P. Nuguid, MD 1983
George G. Eufemio, MD 1984
Vicente Q. Arguelles, MD 1985
Antonio A. Limson, MD 1986
Glicerio M. Bustamante, MD* 1987
Faustino T. Domingo, Jr., MD 1988
Leonardo A. Ona, Jr., MD 1989
Enrique T. Ona, MD 1990
Willie N. Lagdameo, MD 1991
Renato Q. Sibayan, MD* 1992
Adriano V. Laudico, MD 1993
Modesto O. Llamas, MD 1994
Merlin C. Cipriano, MD* 1995
Roman L. Belmonte, Jr., MD 1996
Florentino C. Doble, MD 1997
Antonio B. Sison, MD 1998
Francisco Y. Arcellana, Jr., MD 1999
Narciso S. Navarro, Jr., MD 2000
Alberto B. Roxas, MD 2001
Ernesto C. Tan, MD 2002
Fernando L. Lopez, MD 2003
Edgardo R. Cortez, MD 2004

*Deceased

PRESIDENTS AND OFFICERS
Non-boarded Surgical Specialty Societies

PHILIPPINE SOCIETY FOR VASCULAR SURGERY
President : Jose Luis J. Danguilan, MD
Vice President : Amado Enriquez, MD
Secretary : Ricardo T. Quintos, MD
Treasurer : Paul S. Montemayor, MD
Directors : Avenilo P. Aventura, MD
Manuel T. Chua Chiaco, Jr., MD
Florimond A. Garcia, MD
Francisco C. Pascual, MD

PHILIPPINE ASSOCIATION OF ENDOSCOPIC SURGEONS
President : Telesforo E. Gana Jr., MD
Vice President : Crisostomo E. Arcilla Jr., MD
Secretary : Albert U. Dy Jr., MD
Treasurer : Jose Macario V. Faylona, MD
Members : Wilma A. Baltazar, MD
Blanca C. de Guia, MD
Ramon L. de Vera, MD
Josefino G. Hernandez, MD
Manuel M. Mariano, MD

PHILIPPINE SOCIETY OF LAPAROSCOPIC SURGEONS
President : Rey Melchor F. Santos, MD
Vice President : Dominador M. Chiong, Jr., MD
Secretary : Jose F. Oreta, Jr., MD
Treasurer : Ma. Concepcion M. Ilao-Oreta, MD
Members : Maximino Dy-R. Elgar, MD
Bienvenido S. Gaddi, MD
Ma. Corazon Zaida N. Gamilla, MD
Romulo L. Madrid, MD
Rogelio P. Mendiola, MD
Miguel C. Mendoza, MD
Roman P. Oblena, Jr., MD
William L. Olalia, MD
Raul O. Desipeda, MD
Francisco E. Tan Jr., MD
Zorayda Umipig, MD
Advisers : Kim Shi C. Tan, MD
Narciso S. Navarro Jr., MD
Edgardo G. Cabrera, MD
Vicente R. Porciuncula, MD

PHILIPPINE HIP & KNEE SOCIETY
President : Antonio N. Tanchuling, MD
Vice President : Reynaldo E. Ang, MD
Secretary : Peter B. Bernardo, MD
Treasurer : Gregorio S. Azores Jr., MD
Ex-Officio : Albert U. Dy Jr., MD

SURGICAL ONCOLOGY SOCIETY OF THE PHILIPPINES
President : Alex A. Erasmo, MD
Vice President : Isaac David E. Ampil II, MD
Secretary/ Treasurer : Ramon S. Inso, MD
Directors : Alex E.L. Cerrillo, MD
Arturo S. de la Peña, MD
Rodney B. Dofitas, MD
Ramon S. Estrada, MD
Eduardo R. Gatchalian, MD

PHILIPPINE ACADEMY FOR HEAD & NECK SURGERY
President : Henry G. Falcotelo, MD
Vice President : Jacob S. Matubis, MD
Secretary : Ida Marie T. Lim, MD
Treasurer : Robie V. Zantua, MD
Members : Natividad G. Aguilar, MD
Jose Ruvelo T. Bartolome, MD
Melanio G. Cruz Jr., MD
Edgardo G. Gonzales, MD
Juan P. Sanchez, MD

PHILIPPINE SPINE SOCIETY
President : Antonio B. Sison, MD
Vice President : Tiong Sam N. Lim, MD
Secretary : Adrian D. Catbagan, MD
Treasurer : Jose Manuel F. Ignacio, MD
Members : Hiram C. Pong, MD
Mario R. Ver, MD

PHILIPPINE SOCIETY FOR THE SURGERY OF TRAUMA
President : Ma. Luisa D. Aquino, MD
Vice President : Joel U. Macalino, MD
Secretary : Ma. Cheryl L. Cucueco, MD
Treasurer : Jorge M. Concepcion, MD
Directors : Jose Emerson T. Afable, MD
Cenon R. Alfonso, MD
Paterno F. Cabrera, III, MD
Lynette B. Dominguez, MD
Shawn Euclid Gandhi P. Espina, MD
Joseph T. Juico, MD
Hector G. Guyares, Jr., MD
Orlando O. Ocampo, MD
Adrien R. Quidlat, MD
Noel R. Sotto, MD

PHILIPPINE SOCIETY OF TRANSPLANT SURGEONS
President : Enrique T. Ona, MD
Vice President : Rosemarie R. Liquete, MD
Secretary : Dennis P. Serrano, MD
Treasurer : Angel Joaquin Amante, MD
Auditor : Carlo Gerardo B. Ramirez, MD

PHILIPPINE SOCIETY OF ULTRASOUND IN SURGERY
President : Ramon L. de Vera, MD
Vice President : Eric SM Talens, MD
Secretary : Ricardo T. Quintos, MD
Treasurer : Manuel Francisco T. Roxas, MD
PRO : Shirard Leonardo C. Adviso, MD
Members : Marilou N. Agno, MD
Romulo N. Aguilar, MD
Dante G. Ang, MD
Jose Roberto Borromeo, MD
Lynette B. Dominguez, MD
Jose Macario V. Faylona, MD
Gerardo G. Legaspi, MD
Elmer B. Guerrero, MD
Jason L. Letran, MD
Nilo Antonio L. Morga, MD
Orlando O. Ocampo, MD
Dennis P. Serrano, MD

PRESIDENTS AND OFFICERS
Surgical Specialty Societies

PHILIPPINE ACADEMY OPHTHALMOLOGY
President : Marcelino D. Banzon, MD
Vice-President : Ma. Dominga B. Padilla, MD
Treasurer : Reynaldo E. Santos, MD
Secretary : Pablo L. Rivadillo, MD
Councilors : Teresita R. Castillo, MD
Froilan P. Inocencio, MD
Franklin P. Kleiner, MD
Ruben Lim Bon Siong, MD
Juan S. Lopez, MD
Rollo C. Milante, MD
Carlos G. Naval, MD
Ronald A. Yutangco, MD
Immediate Past President: Romulo N. Aguilar, MD

PHILIPPINE SOCIETY OF OTOLARYNGOLOGY - HEAD AND NECK SURGERY
President : Felix P. Nolasco, MD
Vice President : Gil M. Vicente, MD
Secretary : Natividad A. Aguilar MD
Treasurer : Charlotte M. Chiong, MD
Auditor : Josefino G. Hernandez, MD
Directors : Jesus Randy O. Cañal, MD,MSc
Jacob S. Matubis, MD
Virgilio R. De Gracia, MD
Alfredo Q.Y. Pontejos Jr., MD
Jose A. Malanyaon Jr., MD
Romeo L. Villarte Jr., MD,MPH
Intermediate Past President: Cesar V. Villafuerte Jr., MD, MHA

PHILIPPINE UROLOGICAL ASSOCIATION
President : Jesus Benjamin L. Mendoza, MD
Vice President : Michael Y. Leh, MD
Secretary : Juliano Z.K. Panganiban, MD
Treasurer : Ariel A. Zerrudo, MD
Auditor : Dennis P. Serrano, MD
Members : Telesforo E. Gana, Jr., MD
David T. Bolong, MD
Adviser : Nelson A. Patron, MD

PHILIPPINE ASSOCIATION OF THORACIC AND CARDIOVASCULAR SURGEONS, INC.
President : Eduardo R. Bautista, MD
Vice President : Camilo C. Pada, MD
Secretary : Christopher C. Cheng, MD
Treasurer : Jaime F. Esquivel, MD
Board Members : Josefino I. Sanchez, MD
Dennis R. Hernandez, MD
Ramon O. Ribu, MD
Immediate Past President: Aquileo C. Rico, MD

PHILIPPINE SOCIETY OF PEDIATRIC SURGEONS
President : Beda R. Espineda, MD
Vice President : Antonio DR. Catangui, MD
Secretary : Dexter S. Aison, MD
Treasurer : Hermogenes R. Regal Jr., MD
Members : Cesar S. Bernabe, MD
Delfin A. Cuajunco, MD
Leandro L. Ressurrecion III, MD

PHILIPPINE ASSOCIATION OF PLASTIC RECONSTRUCTIVE AND AESTHETIC SURGEONS
President : Florencio O. Lucero, MD
Vice President : Hector M. Santos Jr., MD
Secretary : Francisco C. Manalo, MD
Treasurer : Teresita L. Tongson, MD
P.R.O : Laurence T. Loh, MD
Directors : Alexander G. de Leon, MD
Glenn Angelo S. Genuino, MD
Gerardo G. Germar, MD
Jose Melvin M. Sibulo, MD
Ma. Irene B. Tangco, MD
Rene C. Valerio, MD
Immediate Past President: Conrado G. de Gracia, MD

PHILIPPINE SOCIETY OF COLON AND RECTAL SURGEONS
President : Ramon S. Estrada, MD
Vice President : Enrico P. Ragaza, MD
Secretary/Treasurer : Manuel Francisco T. Roxas, MD
Auditor : Robert L. Chang, MD
Trustees : Armando C. Crisostomo, MD
Romeo R. Gutierrez, MD
Carlos M. Magsanoc, MD
Felix H. Tambuatco, MD
Alberto B. Roxas, MD

ACADEMY OF FILIPINO NEUROSURGEONS
President : Rhoderick M. Casis, MD
Vice President : Louie C. Racelis, MD
Secretary/Treasurer : Maria Lourdes Domingo-Maglinao

PHILIPPINE ORTHOPAEDIC ASSOCIATION
President : Miles Francis T. de la Rosa, MD
Vice President : George Winston B. Estera, MD
Secretary : Edward A. Sarrosa, MD
Treasurer : Francisco P. Altarejos, MD
Members : Jose S. Pujalte, Jr., MD
Albert U. Dy, Jr., MD
Lauro R. Bonifaio, MD
Emiliano B. Tablante, MD
Ceasar S. Grey, MD
Jose Ma. R. Coruña, MD
Hilario M. Diaz, MD
Ex-Officio : Rodolfo L. Nitollama, MD

PHILIPPINE SOCIETY OF GENERAL SURGEONS
President : Dominador M. Chiong Jr., MD
Vice President : Arturo E. Mendoza Jr., MD
Secretary : George G. Lim, MD
Treasurer : Reynaldo M. Baclig, MD
Directors : Edgardo A. Baltazar, MD
Giovanni A. Delos Reyes, MD
Nilo C. Delos Santos, MD
Romeo G. Encanto, MD
Shawn Euclid Gandhi P. Espina, MD
Ramon S. Inso, MD
Jaime B. Lagunilla, MD
Leopoldo P. Lugtu, MD
Roberto A. Sarmiento, MD
Arnulfo D. Seares Jr., MD
Jackson D. Soriano, MD

Surgical Resident Scholars

PREVAL ANTHONY L. AMATO, MD
St. Luke's Medical Center

PAUL CATEDRAL, MD
St. Paul's Hospital
Iloilo City

ROBERT MELVIN B. DELFIN, MD
Cardinal Santos Medical Center

EDMUNDO E. FERNANDEZ, MD
Jose R. Reyes Memorial Medical Center
Manila

JEFF PETER J. JUBILADO, MD
National Kidney & Transplant Institute

EDGAR PALACOL, MD
St. Luke's Medical Center

CHAIRMEN AND OFFICERS
Surgical Specialty Boards

PHILIPPINE BOARD OF SURGERY
Chairman : Samuel D. Ang, MD
Vice Chairman : Armando C. Crisostomo, MD
Secretary/Treasurer : Narciso S. Navarro Jr., MD
Executive Director : Fernando L. Lopez, MD
Directors : Francisco Y. Arcellana Jr., MD
Reynaldo M. Baclig, MD
Edgardo R. Cortez, MD
Jose Y. Cueto Jr., MD
Arturo S. De la Peña, MD
Alex A. Erasmo, MD
Ray B. Malilay, MD

PHILIPPINE BOARD OF OPHTHALMOLOGY
Chairman : Romeo B. Espiritu, MD
Vice Chairman : Salvador R. Salceda, MD
Chairman Emeritus : Romeo V. Fajardo, MD
Secretary : Prospero Ma. C. Tuño, MD
Treasurer : Rudolfo U. Chuanico, MD
Members : Manuel B. Agulto, MD
Mario V. Aquino, MD
Vicente T. de la Paz Jr., MD
Alejandro S. de Leon, MD
Jacinto U. Dy-Liacco, MD
Jose J. Duran, MD
Cosme I.N. Naval, MD
Antonio S. Say, MD
Marissa N. Valbuena, MD
Pearl Tamesis M. Villalon, MD
Technical Adviser : Teresita R. Castillo, MD
Ricardo G. San Juan, MD
Ex-Officio : Romulo N. Aguilar, MD
Marcelino D. Banzon, MD

PHILIPPINE BOARD OF PLASTIC SURGERY
Chairman : Hector M. Santos, Jr., MD
Secretary/Treasurer : Teresita L. Tongson, MD
Members : Placido P. Calimag, Jr., MD
Vicente G. Castillo, MD
Gerardo G. Germar, MD
James B. Joaquino, MD
Laurence T. Loh, MD
Florencio Q. Lucero, MD
Jesusito S. Zubiri, MD

PHILIPPINE BOARD OF ORTHOPEDICS
Chairman : Jose Z. Flordelis, MD
Vice Chairman : Andres D. Borromeo, MD
Secretary : Ricardo C. Liwag, MD
Treasurer : Leslie M. Reyes, MD
Trustees : Venancio P. Garduce, Jr., MD
James C. Paggao, MD
Norberto R. Agcaoili, MD
Mario B. Geronilla, MD
Antonio N. Tanchuling Jr., MD
Rudy Q. Vegilia, MD
Manuel Z. Sison, MD
Leonido C. Castillo, MD

PHILIPPINE BOARD OF OTORHINOLARYNGOLOGY
President : Abelardo B. Perez, MD
Secretary/Treasurer : Vicente T. Chiong, MD
Directors : Remigio I. Jarin, MD
Edilberto M. Jose, MD
Teodoro P. Llamanzares, MD
Rodolfo P. Nonato, MD
Alfredo Q. Y. Pontejos Jr., MD
Edgardo C. Rodriguez Jr., MD
Cesar V. Villafuerte Jr., MD

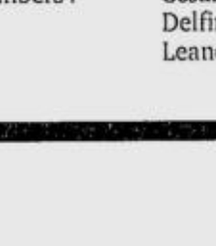
PHILIPPINE BOARD OF UROLOGY
Chairman : Abelardo M. Prodigalidad, MD
Vice Chairman : Antonio L. Anastacio, MD
Treasurer : Lester A. Garcia, MD
Secretary : Nelson A. Patron, MD
Auditor : Ernesto V. Arada, III, MD

PHILIPPINE BOARD OF THORACIC AND CARDIOVASCULAR SURGERY
Chairman : Ludgerio D. Torres, MD
Vice Chairman : Antonio C. Cabigas, MD
Secretary/Treasurer : Napoleon Y. De Guzman, MD
Members : Jose Luis J. Danguilan, MD
Nelson A. Garciano, MD
Fernando A. Melendres, MD
Jose S. Yamamoto, MD
Renato A. Villanueva, MD

PHILIPPINE BOARD OF PEDIATRIC SURGERY
Chairman : Antonio DR Catangui, MD
Members : Alfredo C. Acosta, MD
Delfin B. Cuajunco, MD
Hermogenes R. Regal Jr., MD
Esther A. Saguil, MD
Ex-Officio : Wilma A. Baltazar, MD

PHILIPPINE BOARD OF NEUROLOGICAL SURGERY
Chairman : Ricardo C. Enrile, MD
Secretary : Eduardo R. Mercado, MD
Members : Abelardo P. Palaypayon, MD
Theodor S. Vesagas, MD

PHILIPPINE BOARD OF COLON & RECTAL SURGERY
Chairman : Enrico P. Ragaza, MD
Secretary/Treasurer : Manuel Francisco T. Roxas, MD


Dominic M. Nazareno, MD.
Volunteer to Bohol

Surgical Specialists to the Province Program

ON JANUARY 1, 2002, THE PHILIPPINE College of Surgeons (PCS), in cooperation with the Department of Health (DOH), United Laboratories, Inc. (Unilab), Philippine Society of Anesthesiologists (PSA) and the local government units (LGU) made a call for surgeons and anesthesiologists to pursue a noble deed of leaving the city and making their professional services available to the remote areas of the country. Three priority areas were identified: Bohol, Surigao and Batanes. Dr. Dominic Nazareno heeded the call and went on to face the challenge.

Dr. Nazareno became the program's grantee at the Carmen District Hospital in Bohol. He has since been rendering quality surgical care to the people in the area and nearby places. Together with Dr. Elena Oripaypay-Yumang, they have been doing many major, medium and minor surgeries to the benefit of the appreciative community.

Their experiences have been so fruitful and encouraging that the PCS and its partner agencies are now trying to identify other areas where such services are needed. Hopefully, this will start another success story for the College and the community it has sworn to serve.

PCS President's Report 2005

Arturo S. De la Peña, M.D., FPCS

1. Continuing Surgical Education
1.1. Conducted the 2005 Midyear Convention in Subic, Zambales.
1.2. Hosted the Society of Philippine Surgeons in America (SPSA), the Asian Surgical Association (ASA) and the ASEAN Society of Colorectal Surgeons (ASCRS) during the 61st annual clinical congress at EDSA Shangri-La Hotel, Mandaluyong City.
1.3. Coordinated the Postgraduate Courses of all Societies and Training programs.
1.4. Coordinated with the Philippine Society of Anesthesiologists (PSA) and the Philippine Urological Association (PUA) to convert the 2006 Midyear convention into a mini-congress.
1.5. Insured that the midyear and annual congresses be prepared two years in advance.
2. Surgical Missions
2.1. Conducted surgical missions via the SURE program and the Chapters.
2.2. Executed Memorandum of Agreement with League of Municipal Mayors of the Philippines and Rotary International to provide the manpower for their surgical missions.
3. Socially-relevant Projects
3.1. Provided non-scalpel vasectomy services in Manikina City, Bicol and Northern Mindanao.
3.2. Painted houses constructed by "Habitat for Humanity" in Baseco Compound, Tondo, Manila.
3.3. Conducted Blood-letting Programs nationwide via the Chapters.
3.4. Worked for the proclamation of the month of June as "Safe-Kids" month in cooperation with Safe Kids Program of DHI.
3.5. Conducted safety promotion and accident prevention in Metro Manila public elementary schools.
4. External Affairs / Benefit of Members
4.1. Provided the permanent Secretariats of all chapters with computers with the support of UNILAB.
4.2. Actively participated in the covenant for good medical practice with DOH, PRC and the specialty societies.
4.3. Renegotiated the MOA with AIMOPhi to grant higher multiplier for Fellows.
4.4. Finished the revision of RVS 2005.
4.5. Proposed the Standards of Accreditation for the promotion of medical tourism (surgical service packages) in the country.
4.6. Petitioned the DOH/DDB for leniency in the requirements for yellow prescriptions.
4.7 Activated the PCS Website (pcs@pcs.org.ph)
4.8. Increased public awareness of the PCS via press releases & surgical publications, Radio & TV interviews, and participation in Lay Fora.
5. Research and Publications/Newsletter
5.1. Published and distributed 4 issues of the Newsletter with more relevant articles from Fellows, Chapter and Specialty Societies.
5.2. Published all PJSS issues for 2005 with 4 issues ready for publication in 2006.
5.3. To publish the Commemorative Issue (60th year) of the PJSS with a new cover.
6. Ethics
6.1. Monitored the registration of sponsored delegates during the Midyear and Annual conventions.
6.2. Assured attendance during sessions by persuading pharmaceutical companies to refrain from bringing out delegates during that time.
6.3. Insured the participation of pharmaceutical companies to the general session on ethics during the annual congress.
7. Surgical Training / Service Awards
7.1. Continued the Specialist to the Province Program with DOH, PSA and UNILAB, by recruiting an anesthesiologist to practice in Bohol while opening up Sultan Kudarat as another project site.
7.2. Established the Outstanding PCS Fellow Award for Community Service 2005.
7.3. Published the National Surgical Manpower Study and conducted the Strategic Planning for the National Surgical Human Resource Development Program.
7.4. Completed the Core Curriculum in Surgical Oncology and the Manual on Advanced Surgical Skills.
8. Governance
8.1. Unification of the PAES and PSLS into the Philippine Association of Laparoscopic and Endoscopic Surgeons (PALES).
8.2. Granting of Chapter shares from the net income of the Midyear Convention.
9. Trauma
9.1. Concluded the MOA and IRR with the DND regarding the role of the PCS in times of national disasters and calamities; conducted a disaster preparedness workshop with the PSST.
9.2. Designed the BEST (Basic Emergency Skills in Trauma) Program for trauma and life support Trainers.
10. Surgical Infection
10.1. Published the abridged version of EBCPG on antimicrobial prophylaxis.
10.2. Executed a MOA with PHA for Hospital Infection Surveillance program.
11. Cancer
11.1. Cooperated with Avon during the PCS-Avon Fun Walk to raise funds for the establishment of Breast Care Centers in Baguio, Cebu, Davao and Metro Manila.
11.2. Published the EBCPG on Cancers of the Colon & Rectum, Oral Cavity and Breast.
11.3. Continued participation in the NIH-funded multi-institutional study on Breast Cancer.
12. Research
12.2 Set standards for guideline development project.
12.3. Developed EBCPG on Acute Postoperative pain

PCS Chapter Reports 2005

PCS BICOL CHAPTER

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 2005
President : Rex A. Madrigal, MD, FPCS
Vice President : Dinsdado Uy, MD, FPCS
Secretary : Vietriz P. David-Abella, MD, FPCS
Treasurer : Giovanni Zenarosa, MD, FPCS
Directors : Neil Aldrine Penaflor, MD, FPCS
Joseph T. Rebulado, MD, FPCS
Gabriel Penns, MD, FPCS
Joselito Urgel, MD, FPCS
Raul Palencia, MD, FPCS
Lorenzo Chacon, MD, FPCS
PCS Governor for Bicol : Lynn Lourdes Lucena., MD, FPCS

BLOOD DONATION PROGRAM WITH LOCAL RED CROSS UNIT
Instead of donating all at the same time, we decided to have it on a rotational basis so as to continuously replenish the supply at the local Red Cross Unit. This was launch during the PCS Week Celebration September 7, 2005.

I. CME ACTIVITIES
1. June 4-5, 2005, Post Graduate Course of Camarines Medical Society
2. July 22, 2005, RESEARCH METHODOLOGY SEMINAR by Dr. David Ampil and Dra. Ma. Luisa Aquino
3. September 23, 2005, Updates on Breast Cancer
4. October 7, 2005, Breast Cancer Awareness Month Celebration, Lecture on Early Detection of Breast Cancer, Treatment and Adjuvant Therapy
5. October 8, 2005, Cancer Symposium at Daet, Camarines Sur
6. October 15, 2005, 2nd Post Graduate Course in Surgery at the Hotel Venezia, Legaspi City
7. November 2005, Seminar on Critical Appraisal of Research Papers

II. SOCIO-CIVIC ACTIVITIES
1. Jan. 23, 2005, Joint PCS/PSGS Induction Ceremonies
2. February 9, 2005, Guesting at local PBNS - "What is PCS and what we are doing for the community"
3. February 2005, Induction ceremonies of ENT-Bicol Chapter
4. June 10, 2005, Formal launching of "Doctor on Call" TV Program at local PBNS
5. June 17, 2005, National Kidney Month Celebration
6. July 17, 2005, Stop Smoking Program, Lecture on Lung Cancer and the Likes
7. August 26, 2005, Lecture on "Fight Against Dengue"
8. Sept. 7, 2005, Voluntary Blood Donation Program with local Red Cross
9. October 5, 2005, Sake Kids lecture, APMI Grade I students, on "Safe Walking for Kids"
10. October 8, 2005, Cancer Symposia in Daet
11. Free Breast Cancer Screening for the Month of October - Project with PSGS local Chapter and the Bicol Medical Center

III. MISSIONS
February 2005, in-house surgical mission at Bicol Medical Center

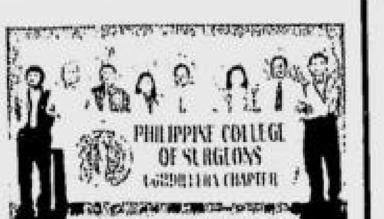
IV. SPORTS AND FELLOWSHIP
1. June 2005, Resumption of Badminton Program every Tuesdays and Thursdays
2. Get together with candidates for Fellowship to the Philippine College of Surgeons
3. TV PROGRAM OF PCS-BICOL CHAPTER

V. "SAFE KIDS"
Audiovisual presentation was made for teaching grade schoolers safe walking in the streets. The target age group is from 6-9 years old since studies have shown that this group has a 300% accident rate compared to pre-schoolers who are always with a guardian

PCS CORDILLERA CHAPTER

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2005
President : Alfredo M. Ignma, MD
Vice President : Honorio Ma. Pangilinan, MD
Treasurer : Sherry Ong-Cunanan, MD
Secretary : Ma. Rosario K. Paggao, MD
Auditor : Romeo R. Concepcion Jr., MD
Ex Officio & Governor : Vicenta S. Balajo, MD

Members : James A. Almora MD
Joselito Bringas, MD
Pablo Candelario, MD
Samuel Cosme, MD
Ruben Sinfuego, MD



I. CME ACTIVITIES:
1. March 12, 2005, "Module on Cancer Pain Management" at Camp John Hay, Baguio City.
2. June 22, 2005, "Common Elective Surgical Procedures" at Pines View Hotel, Baguio City.
3. September 30, 2005, Post Graduate Course: "Primary Care Surgery for Non-Surgeons" at the Center for Culture & Arts, St. Louis University, Baguio City.
4. October 10, 2005, "Upper GI Bleeding" at the Gilgans Restaurant, Baguio City.

II. SOCIO CIVIC ACTIVITIES:
1. August 21, 2005, "Tree Planting" at Philippine Information Agency Grounds Wright Park, Baguio City in coordination with Baguio Regreening Movement, Department of Environment and Natural Resources and Phil. Information Agency.
2. September 1, 2005, "Blood Letting" at People's Park, Malcolm Square, Baguio City in coordination with Phil. National Red Cross, Baguio Chapter, Benguet Electric Cooperative and Alpha Phi Omega Fraternity, Baguio Chapter.
3. October 2005, Pink October - "Breast Cancer Awareness Month"
4. October 1 to 29, 2005, Free Breast Examination and screening from 9 am to 12 noon at SLUHSN, BGH, BeGH Free sonomammogram for those with suspicious Lesions Free breast biopsies/excision after proper Evaluation.
5. Lay Fora: Government Offices every Friday of the Month.
6. October 22, 2005 and November 5, 2005, "Blood Letting" with the UCCP and Bombo Radyo respectively at the Peoples Park in Baguio City.

III. SURGICAL OUTREACH PROGRAMS:
1. May 15-24, 2005 at St. Louis University Hospital, Baguio City in coordination with Alfonso Yuchengco Foundation.
2. November 18-20, 2005 at Luis Hora Memorial Hospital, Bauko, Mt. Province in Coordination with PCS SURE.

IV. Others
1. TV Program Interview - Health Issues, PCS activities
2. Bid for 2008 Midyear Convention
3. Establishment of permanent PCS Cordillera Office - Training Office, Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center

PCS CEBU-EASTERN VISAYAS CHAPTER

From left (standing): Doctors Manuel B. Villamor Jr., Michael Co del Mar, Pablo J. Ilano III, Ulysses Rallon, Leopold G. Lucero, Elmer S. Jabagat (sitting): Doctors Teodoro J. Herbosa, Eduardo R. Gatchalian, Arturo S. de la Pena, Maribel O. Du, Stephen Sixto S. Siguan, Gregory Angel C. Canga, Alice M. Gonzales. Not in picture: Doctors Mateo V. Tipgos, Arnold A. Tan and Steve Glicerio J. Rama

I. Continuing Surgical Education
• January 18, 2005, Symposium on "Systemic Response to Trauma", Marriot Hotel, Ayala
• May 18, 2005, Committee on Cancer Forum on "Colorectal Cancer", Region VII Conference Room, Dept. of Health, Jones Avenue
• May 20, 2005, 1st Joint PCS/PSGS "Surgical Infection Data Presentation", presented by residents of the different Surgical Training programs, Baseline Restaurant, M. Velez St.
• July 30, 2005, "Fad vs. Fat - Understanding Nutritional Approaches" Marriot Hotel
• August 25, 2005, Voluven - "New Generation Starch for Hypovolemia & Shock", Waterfront Hotel, Lahug
• September 2, 2005, Opening Ceremonies of the 1st PCS Southern Conference, "Management of Intraabdominal Infections", Cebu Waterfront Hotel, Lahug
• September 3, 2005, Scientific sessions- Day 2 of the 1st PCS Southern Conference, "Community Breast Cancer Control Program" and "Evidence-Based Practice Guidelines for Antimicrobial Prophylaxis in Surgery", Cebu Waterfront Hotel, Lahug
• September 3, 2005, PCS Southern Conference "Surgical Research Paper Contest", Cebu Waterfront Hotel, Lahug
• September 23, 2005, 2nd PCS/PSGS "Surgical Infection Data Presentation", presented by residents of the different Surgical Training programs, Red Tomato Restaurant, Capitol
• September 29, 2005, Multidisciplinary Approach in the "Management of Blunt Pelvic Trauma" - an interactive conference, Cebu Grand Convention Center
• October 8, 2005, "Breast Cancer Forum for Medical Professionals", Sacred Heart Center, Mango Avenue

II. Socio-Civic Activities
• April 23, 2005, joint activity with the Philippine College of Physicians, City Sports Complex, Ayala Business Park, "A Dinner Talk for the Soul"
• September 10, 2005, "Adopt a Mountain", a project with DENR - 7, the PCS-CEVC "adopted" a mountainside in Busay - for development and reforestation
• September 12, 2005, "Dugo Mo Buhay Ko", Bloodletting at the Cebu City Red Cross Headquarters
• September 22, 2005, Medicine Week Celebration - daily lay fora were held at the Emall hosted each day by the different specialty societies. The Chapter gave a forum on First Aid and CPR in cooperation with the Emergency Rescue Unit Foundation (ERUF)
• October 2, 2005, Pink October, Avon "Walk for a Cause" for Breast Cancer Awareness, 6:30 AM, from the front of the Avon office in Osmeña Boulevard, through Fuente Osmeña, to Harrison park in Jones avenue and back to Avon office. All the participants were asked to give a small donation of P50 and a total of P155,000 was raised, for the benefit of the Breast Cancer Center in VSMMC.
• October 11, 2005, Press Conference on Breast Cancer Awareness - headed by PCS-CEVC Cancer Committee with representatives from the different Breast Cancer Support groups and some breast cancer survivors. Eduardo J. Aboitiz Cancer Foundation Conference Rm, VSMMC sponsored by the PCS-CEVC and PSGS-CEVC in cooperation with the Philippine Information Agency
• October 8, 2005, Breast Cancer Lay Forum with Free Breast Examination, A joint project with PSGS-CEVC in cooperation with the Rotary club of Cebu Gloria Maris

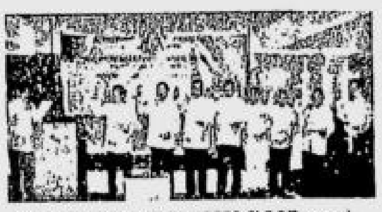
III. Surgical Outreach Programs/Missions
• January 10-14, 2005, PCS-CEVC in cooperation with the Philippine American Medical Association of Georgia, USA (PAMAG), North General Hospital, Talamban, Cebu
• January 17-20, 2005, PCS CEVC in cooperation with the Philippine Physicians of the Florida Panhandle (APPFP), Mactan Community Hospital
• February 25-27, 2005, Mission to Baybay Leyte
• March 18-20,2005, Mission to Gingoog, Cagayan de Oro
• May 14-15, 2005, Mission to Camotes, In cooperation with Rotary Club of Cebu Fuente
• May 15, 2005, Operation Tuli - "Halad 2005", in cooperation with Zonta-Cebu and PPS-CCEV & K of C Liloan
• May 2005, Mission to Sugbongcogon, Misamis Oriental
• September 12-15, 2005, Mission to Camiguin
• September 12-15, 2005, Mission to Siquijor
• September 20-23, 2005, Mission to Danao City, Cebu
• October 29-30, 2005, Mission to Tuburan, Cebu, in cooperation with the Rotary Club of Cebu Gloria Maris

IV. Sports and Fellowship
• May 21-22, 2005, "Whapak" PCS Charity Badminton Tournament, Metrosports Badminton Club, Fundraising for the benefit of S.O.S.
• September 18,2005, Medicine Week Badminton Tournament, Surgery/Anesthesia team won 2nd place
• September 2, 2005, PCS Southern Conference Basketball Tournament, City Sports Complex, Ayala
• September 24, 2005, Medicine Week Fellowship Night Presentation, PCS-CEVC presented a song/dance number of the "5 J's - Jackson 5 Revival", Waterfront Hotel, Lahug

PCS CENTRAL LUZON CHAPTER

Board of Directors, 2005
President : Rolando L. Canivel, MD
Vice President : Sergio A. Mamba, MD
Secretary-Treasurer : Alfonso C. Danac, MD
Directors : Protacio T. Bajao, MD
Vic P. Managuelod, MD
Ronnie Torres, MD
Carmelo Randolph Trinidad, MD
Restituto D. David, Jr. MD
Joseph Bautista, MD

PCS Governor : Joselito M. Mendoza, MD



Induction of the PCS-CLC and PSGS-CLC Officers and new Fellows, January 15, 2005 at the Subic Bay Yacht Club, Subic Bay Freeport Zone.

I. CME Activities
1. Hosting of 31st Midyear Convention, May 6-7, 2005 at the Legenda Suites, Subic Bay Freeport Zone.
2. Lecture on "Systemic Response To Trauma", January 15, 2005 at the Subic Bay Yacht Club, Subic Bay Freeport Zone.
3. Scientific Lecture on "Ultrasound for Surgeons" and "Updates on Coxibs", April 2, 2005, Hotel Roma, Tuguegarao City.
4. Inter-hospital Interesting Case Presentation, April 2, 2005, participated in by the Fellows and Residents from Cagayan Valley Medical Center, James L. Gordon Memorial Hospital, Jose B. Lingad Memorial Regional Hospital, Paulino J. Garcia Memorial Medical and Research Center and Tarlac Provincial Hospital and two Training Hospitals namely, Bulacan Provincial Hospital and Veterans Regional Hospital held at Hotel Roma, Tuguegarao City.
5. Joint PCS and PSGS scientific symposium " Intraabdominal Infections" and "Nutrition in Gut Failure", April 16, 2005 at the Acropolis of the North, Cabanatuan City
6. Inter-hospital Case Presentation of different cases of Intraabdominal Infections, April 16, 2005 at the Acropolis of the North, Cabanatuan City
7. Symposium on "Immunonutrition : Glutamine" May 31, 2005, Partyland in San Fernando, Pampanga
8. Business meeting and Strategic Planning Workshop of the Chapter, May 31, 2005, Partyland in San Fernando, Pampanga

II. Community Services/Socio Civic Activities
1. June 24, 2005, Safe Kids Phils. and PCS CLC together with Federal Express conducted classroom lectures and painted the pedestrian crossing lane infront of the Olongapo City Elementary School in celebration of the 1st National Safe Kids Week (June 20-24)
2. October 27, 2005, Lay Forum on Breast Cancer at the Jose B. Lingad Memorial Regional Hospital

II. Others
1. Induction of the PCS-CLC and PSGS-CLC Officers and new Fellows, January 15, 2005 at the Subic Bay Yacht Club, Subic Bay Freeport Zone.

PCS DAVAO SOUTHERN MINDANAO CHAPTER

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 2005
President : Rolando A. Chiu, MD
Vice President : Surlito B. Encarnacion, MD
Treasurer : Alex L. Tan, MD
Secretary : Santiago A. Aquino, MD
Assistant Secretary : Michael O. Wong, MD

Directors : Nelson C. Villano, MD
Rolley Rey P. Lobo, MD
Jerry U. Rafael, MD
Tomas Joyce C. Monteverde, MD
Teodulfo H. Barnuevo, MD

Immediate Past President: Romeo R. Du, MD
Governor: Cecilio Vicente T. Gempesaw, MD

I. Scientific Meetings (CME Activities)
1. Quarterly Interhospital Case Presentation by Residents - a joint project with PSGS Davao Southern Mindanao Chapter.
1.1. February 25, 2005 - Colorectal Cancer Held at Brokenshire Hospital Conference Room
1.2. June 17, 2005 - Parotid Cancer and Ameloblastoma of Mandible held at Banchero's Restaurant presented by Davao Doctors' Hospital.
1.3. September 22, 2005 - Thoraco-Abdominal Trauma held at Buanda Restaurant presented by San Pedro Hospital.
2. Symposium on Intra-Abdominal Infection - July 23, 2005, Speaker: Dr. Edgardo R. Cortez
3. Symposium on Breast Cancer - July 29, 2005, Speaker: Dr. Noel C. Jazul

II. Socio-Civic Activities
1. Motorcade was also held last May 31, 2005 around the city afterwhich program in Cityhall followed.
2. Conducted a free Cancer Screening on Breast, Lung and Colorectal Cases - sponsored by AMUMA CANCER SUPPORT GROUP on July 17, 2005 at Ateneo de Davao High School Sports Complex.
3. Mangrove Tree Planting Activities in Samal Island on October 2, 2005 in cooperation with Rotary Club of Davao City.
4. Ongoing project that the Chapter strongly supports is the anti-smoking campaign of City government of Davao. Lectures will be conducted on the Effects of Smoking to our environment and health.
5. Pink October to be held on October 8, 2005 at Gaisano South Citimall with Free Breast Examination and Breast Biopsy and also lecture on Breast Cancer.
6. Blood Letting to be held on October 16, 2005

III. Surgical Outreach Mission
Conducted Surgical Mission in Governor Generoso at Davo Oriental last April 14-16, 2005

IV. Sports Activities
1. Participated in the 66th Foundation Day Celebration of Davao Medical Society highlighted by Sports Fest Activities which included basketball, tennis, badminton, volleyball and fun run held at Ladislawa Country Club on August 7, 2005.
2. Participated also in the Southern Conference Sports Fest in Cebu City on September 2-3, 2005 including four other Chapters in Visayas and Mindanao.

V. Future Activities
1. Quarterly Inter-Hospital Case Presentation to be held in December, 2005 and hosted by Dadiangas Doctors Hospital

PCS METRO MANILA CHAPTER

2005 PCSMMC Board of Directors: (sitting from right) Doctors Ma. Luisa D. Aquino; Enrico P. Ragaza-Secretary; Alfred H. Belmonte-Vice President; Vedasto B. Lim-President; Nilo C. Delos Santos-Treasurer; (standing from left) Doctors Ervin H. Nucum; Edgardo T. Tan; Jose A. Solomon; Antonio C. Cabigas; Edgardo T. Orlina; Manuel A. Olveros Jr.; Dexter S. Alson and Alfred L. Tan. (Directors not in picture are Doctors Antonio B. Ramos and Hector M. Santos)

1. CME Activities
1.1. PCSMMC-Fresenius Kabi Scientific Symposium on "Systemic Response to Trauma"; January 07, 2005, Holiday Inn Galleria Manila
1.2. PCSMMC- Westmont Seminar Workshop on "Critical Appraisal of the Medical Literature"; April 09, 2005, 4/F Bonaventure Plaza Greenhills San Juan Metro Manila
1.3. PCSMMC-JJMP Scholars Re-evaluation of Qualifications; April 15, 2005, Good Earth Tea Room, Metrowalk, Ortigas
1.4. PCSMMC-PUA-Levox Interactive Panel Discussion on "Controversies in the Management of Renal Trauma"; April 22, 2005, Bayanihan Hall Unilab Compound
1.5. PCSMMC-Fresenius Kabi Scientific Symposium on "AIO Dual Energy and Fluid Loading in Surgery"; May 05, 2005, Chinese Museum Restaurant, The Legenda Hotel Subic
1.6. The 23rd PCSMMC-Unilab Post-Graduate Course: "Surgery of the Alimentary Tract"; June 21-24, 2005, Bayanihan Hall Unilab Compound, Mandaluyong City
1.7. 9th PCSMMC-Bayer Surgical Quiz Contest: "Batakan ng Utak"; September 17, 2005, Linden Suites Pasig City
1.8. PCSMMC-Zeptrigen Residents Research Paper Contest; November 28, 2005, Bayanihan Hall Unilab Compound
1.9. Scholarship Grant: PCSMMC-JJMP Scholars.
• Carlo Jose V. Fuentebella, MD - GS resident of STUH
• Gaudencio T. Liguton III, MD - Neurosurgery resident of UERMMMC
• Michael F. Mapalad, MD - GS resident of CGHMC
• Julian Salvador A. Vinco, MD - Urology resident of UERMMMC

2. Community/Outreach Programs
2.1. Public Education
• Basic Trauma and Life Support Seminar Workshop; May 28, 2005, WPD Headquarters UN Avenue Manila
• Launching "Manual on Common Household Emergencies"; August 20, 2005, Richmonde Hotel, Mandaluyong City
• Radio Guesting:; Dr. Enrique Collantes Jr. - "Sports Injury"; September 18, 2005, DZRH Station
• Breast CA Awareness Lecture; October 04, 2005, Multipurpose Hall, Saint Pedro Poveda College, EDSA Q.C.
• Breast CA Lay Forum with PSGS-Metro Manila Chapter, East Avenue Medical Center Breast Cancer Foundation and Rotary Club of Quezon City; October 08, 2005, Quezon City Memorial Circle

2.2. Medical Mission
• Operation Tule; April 30, 2005, Gat Andres Bonifacio Memorial Medical Center
• Non Scalpel Vasectomy; August 13, 2005, Marikina Municipal Health Center
• Blood Letting Activity; September 07, 2005, Fe Del Mundo Medical Center; QCGH; VMMC; Makati Medical Center; St. Luke's Medical Center; UST Hospital; East Avenue Medical Center; Jose R. Reyes Memorial Medical Center; MCU-FDTMF Hospital, Rizal Medical Center, UP-PGH, OLLH and The Medical City.
• Free Breast Exam with PSGSMMC, East Avenue Medical Center Breast Cancer Foundation and Rotary Club of Quezon City; October 08, 2005, Quezon City Memorial Circle
• "Operation Smile and Cleft Lip and Palate Mission" with Operation Smile Philippines, PAPRAS, Citibank and City Government of Makati; October 17, 2005, Ospital ng Makati

3. Socio-Civic Activities
3.1. Safe Kids Week Celebration: Cross-walk Painting; June 20-24, 2005
3.2. Habitat for Humanity; September 10, 2005, Baseco Compound Tondo
3.3. Gift giving to Social Welfare Institutions; December 2005, Molave Youth Foundation; GMA Kapuso Foundation and Home for the Aged

4. Sports and Fellowship
4.1. Induction Ceremonies; January 07, 2005, Holiday Inn Galleria Manila
4.2. Thanksgiving Dinner; January 21, 2005, Jaymi's Fort Grill
4.3. Quarterly Golf Tournaments-Fund Raising for Charity Activities; March 16, 2005; May 25, 2005; July 20, 2005; November 23, 2005
4.4. 1st PCSMMC Pre-Convention Fellowship Night; May 05, 2005, Chinese Museum Restaurant, The Legenda Suites, Subic
4.5. President's Cup; September 14, 2005, Valley Golf and Country Club
4.6. Badminton Tournament in cooperation with PSGSMMC, November 10, 2005
4.7. Testimonial Dinner: 4th Legends of the Knife; November 26, 2005, Discovery Suites, Pasig City
4.8. 10th year Anniversary Celebration of PCSMMC JJMP Scholarship: Reunion of PCSMMC-JJMP Scholars December 2005, EDSA Shangri-la Hotel

PCS NORTHERN LUZON CHAPTER

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 2005
President : Jackson D. Soriano, MD
Vice President : Cesar S. Bernabe, MD
Secretary : Anita C. Tarecteen, MD
Directors : Alfredo P. Bernal MD
Ernesto R. Tagorda Jr., MD
Ruel Amor M. Navalta, MD
Jose B. Orosa III, MD

I. CME ACTIVITIES
1. Quarterly Tripartite Conference
• 1st Tripartite Conference held at Ilocos Training & Regional Medical Center
• 2nd Tripartite Conference held at Region I Medical Center, June 30, 2005
• 3rd Tripartite Conference held at Pangasinan Provincial Hospital, September 1, 2005
• Tripartite Conference on November 17, 2005, Pangasinan Provincial Hospital

II. SOCIO CIVIC ACTIVITIES
1. Blood Letting Activities, participating organizations are Pangasinan Provincial Hospital, San Carlos City, Pangasinan PNP and Philippine Guardians Brotherhood Inc. held April 25, 2005 at the Laboratory Section, Pangasinan Provincial Hospital, San Carlos City, Pangasinan
2. Tree Planting Activity, Pangasinan Provincial Hospital, September 26, 2005
3. Lay Fora on Breast Cancer, October 5, 2005, conducted in different hospitals
• Hospital Gymnasium, Pangasinan Provincial Hospital, San Carlos City, Pangasinan
• Out-Patient Department, Region I Medical Center, Dagupan City
• Out-Patient-Department, Ilocos Regional and Training Hospital, San Fernando, La Union
• DZRH Station
4. Free Breast Examination, October 12, 2005, conducted in different hospitals
• Hospital Gymnasium, Pangasinan Provincial Hospital, San Carlos City, Pangasinan
• Out Patient Department, Region I Medical Center Dagupan City
• Out Patient-Department, Ilocos Regional and Training Hospital, San Fernando, La Union
5. GMA Kapuso/ PCS NLC/ PPH Gift Giving and Operation Bukol - schedule on the 2nd week of December Pangasinan Provincial Hospital

III. SURGICAL OUTREACH PROGRAM
1. PCS NLC Free Circumcision, Gymnasium, Pangasinan Provincial Hospital, June 2, 2005
2. PCS NLC Free Circumcision, Ilocos Training & Regional Medical Center, May 23, 2005
3. PCS NLC Free Circumcision, Region 1 Medical Center, May 28, 2005
4. PPH and GMA KAPUSO - PCS NLC "Operation Alis Bukol", Gymnasium, Pangasinan Provincial Hospital, August 27, 2005
5. PPH and GMA KAPUSO - PCS NLC "Operation Alis Bukol", Gymnasium, Pangasinan Provincial Hospital September 15, 2005
IV. FELLOWSHIP
V. PCS Induction

PCS NORTHERN MINDANAO CHAPTER

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 2005
President : Dures Fe D. Escarro-Tagayuna, MD
Vice-President : Edicio Urag, MD
Secretary : Jose Rhoel C. de Leon
Treasurer : Alex E. Barlaan, MD
PRO : Jasmin Batara, MD
Directors : Justinian Aquilino Cyril Pimentel IV, MD
Ernesto J. Estorba, MD
Roy Yap, MD
Tony Robles, MD
Immediate Past President/ Board of Governors: Dr. Omarbasha Lucman

I. CONTINUING SURGICAL EDUCATION
1. April 15, 2005: Presentation of CODE OF ETHICS FOR SURGEONS.
2. April 30, 2005: In cooperation with PSGS-NM: A Scientific Lecture on Neuropathic Pain by Dr. Jose Rhoel de Leon, Kagay-anon restaurant.
3. July 7, 2005: PCS-NM and Bukidnon Surgical Association: Lecture on Cancer Pain Management by Dr. Jose Rhoel C. de Leon, held in Pine Hills Hotel, Malaybalay City.
4. September 14, 2005: Perioperative Management of Advanced Pancreatic Cancer. Interactive Lecture by Dr. Alex Erasmo, with Drs. Max Sambulan, Jose Rhoel de Leon and Dr. Marge Quiblat on the panel. Held in Kagay-anon restaurant.
5. PCS-Southern Conference. 1st Joint Conference of the Visayas and Mindanao Chapter of the PCS. Three Papers from the residents of NMMC were presented.
6. The 3rd Northern Mindanao Surgeons FunShoot. Held last October 22, 2005. A bigger shoot fest will be hosted b the Chapter, open to all cutting specialists.
7. J and J Stapler Workshop: Held 2nd week of November, a workshop with wet clinics to be held at NMMC.
8. Primary Care Surgery Workshop: also in November for members of AMHOPI and FAFP.

II. SOCIO-CIVIC ACTIVITIES
1. 69th Foundation Day Activity:DUGO MO, BUHAY KO at the CAFGU camp in Kinoguitan Misamis Oriental.
2. Northern Mindanao Cancer Detection Center. A project spearheaded by the Misamis Oriental Physician and Nurses Foundation, Inc., our fellows will hold clinics for free in the center.
3. AMHOPI Partnership. PCS Fellows agreed to provide the Municipal Health Physicians of Misamis Oriental telephone consultations in managing difficult cases.
4. Tri- Media Campaign
• RADIO PROGRAMS
In partnership with the DOH and Radio Station DXIM, fellows became monthly resource speakers on different topics.
• TV PROGRAMS
Ms. Susan Palmes of COC TV graciously accepted our proposal to be regular guests and resource persons on her program every first Tuesday at 6-8 in the evening.
• PRINT MEDIA
Local print media adequately covered interviews with concerned Fellows on different health issues.
5. Launching of the COMMUNITY-BASED BREAST CANCER CONTROL PROGRAM at Impasug-ong in Bukidnon. The initial output of the model was presented during the PCS-Southern Conference last September and during the DOH-Philippine Cancer Society Annual Community-Based Cancer Control Network forum held last September 26, 2005 in Cagayan de Oro City.
6. PINK OCTOBER - In partnership with the local AVON dealership, a STEP OUT FOR BREAST CANCER WALK was held last October 23, 2005. Breast examinations by local surgeons will be done at the Avon offices Lay Fora were also held in different venues. An interview about the Pink October was conducted on the local TV Patrol of ABS-CBN last October 5, 2005.
7. VOLUNTARY VASECTOMY PROGRAM in Valencia, Bukidnon.

III. SURGICAL OUTREACH PROGRAMS/MISSION
1. Joint Mission with the POGS-Northern Mindanao: Breast Cancer Awareness and Detection Campaign. These were held at: Barangay 7, 23 and Nazareth in Cagayan De Oro City and in Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental.
2. Surgical Mission to Kapatagan, Lanao del Norte. Together with the Northern Mindanao Medical Center, the local chapter went to Kapatagan from August 10-12, 2005.
3. Other Surgical Missions. In Bukidnon, a three day mission was held at the Bukidnon Provincial Hospital from July 7 to 9.

IV. SPORTS AND FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITIES
1. The Cutting Fellowship Night: Search for the Singing Surgeons, held at Northwinds Hotel on April 30, 2005.
2. General Assembly last October 22, 2005.
3. Sports fest 2005. Badminton and Billiards Tournament for the non shooters on October 22, 2005 Marco Hotel Sports Avenue

V FUTURE ACTIVITIES
1. OPLAN IWAS PUTOK

PCS NEGROS OCCIDENTAL CHAPTER

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 2005
President : Ricardo Paulo J. Yusay, MD
Vice-President : Ma. Mabal Gange-Maestral, MD
Secretary : Jude Thaddeus M. Garcia, MD
Treasurer : Galileo J. Pabalinas, MD
PR O. : Romeo B. Reyes, MD
Governor : Reginald V. Hao, MD
Directors : Teoderico H. Pacaldo, MD
Samuel R. Bacuteng, MD
Rafael L. Jocson, MD
Immediate Past President Marinno L. Villarosa, MD

I. CONTINUING SURGICAL/MEDICAL EDUCATION
1. Management of Intra-abdominal Infections, January 29, 2005, L' Fisher Hotel, Bacolod City
2. Interhospital Grandrounds, Clinico-Pathologic Conference, Short Bowel Syndrome, March 8, 2005, RMC, Conference Room, Bacolod City
3. Interhospital Grandrounds, Clinico-Pathologic Conference, Small Bowel Obstruction, July 13, 2005, Sugarland Hotel, Bacolod City
4. Interhospital Grandrounds, Clinico-Pathologic Conference, Intra Abdominal Mass, September 28, 2005, THH, Bacolod City
5. Surgical Oncology Conference, Breast Surgery, October 13, 2005, L' Fisher Hotel, Bacolod City
6. Interhospital Grandrounds, Clinico-Pathologic Conference, November 2005, BSH, Bacolod City

II. SOCIO - CIVIC ACTIVITIES
1. TV Show (The Surgeon's Hour), Negros Info Channel, Inguinal Hernia, April 18, 2005
2. TV Show (The Surgeon's Hour), Negros Info Channel, Laparoscopic Cholecystectomy, May 16, 2005
3. TV Show (The Surgeon's Hour), Negros Info Channel, ESWL, July 18, 2005
4. TV Show (The Surgeon's Hour), Negros Info Channel, Orthopaedic Diseases, September 19, 2005
5. Breast Ca Risk Assessment, Robinson's Place, Bacolod City, October 2 - 16, 2005
6. TV Guesting, ABS-CBN, Morning Show, Breast Ca, October 3, 2005
7. TV Show (The Surgeon's Hour), Negros Info channel, Breast Carcinoma, October 17, 2005
8. Tree Planting (Foundation Day Activity), Patag, Silay City, October 9, 2005
9. Balay Kalinga, A Housing Project for the Poor (Foundation Day Activity) October, 2005
10. TV Show (The Surgeon's Hour), Negros Info Channel, ENT Diseases, November 21, 2005
11. TV Show (The Surgeon's Hour), Negros Info Channel, Pediatric Surgical Diseases, December 19, 2005

III. SURGICAL OUTREACH PROGRAMS / MISSIONS
1. Alexandra Asian American Lions Club Surgical Mission, January 24-28, 2005, CLMMRH, Bacolod City
2. St. Anne's Surgical Mission with Medical City Foundation March 30, 2005, St. Anne's Hospital, Cadiz City, Neg. Occ.
3. Operation Tuli, DRE, Dental and Ophtha Mission with Rotary Club, April 9, 2005, Murcia, Negros Occidental
4. Vice Mayor's League / PCS Medical Surgical Mission, July 3, 2005, Bata Subdivision, Bacolod City
5. Vice Mayor's League / PCS Medical Surgical Mission, October 28, 2005, Isabela, Negros Occidental

IV. SPORTS AND FELLOWSHIP
1. PCS Southern Conference, Basketball and Badminton Tournaments, Cebu City, September 2 - 3, 2005
2. Fun Ride, Mountain Bike (Foundation Day Activity), Patag, Silay City, October 9, 2005
3. 4 X 4 trekking Patag, Silay City, October 9, 2005

PCS PANAY CHAPTER

(From left) Drs. Henry Tupas, Member; Esteban Sombong, Member; Marcelo Jaen, PRO; Glenn Maclang, Ex-Officio; Noel Binayas, President; Jose Nemesio Granada, Sec-Treasurer; Roberto Allabeto, Member; and Dennie Tidon, Member. Not in photo: Drs. Pedro Tingson, V. President; Board Members Mercedes Altavas; Amado Lavalle

I. CME ACTIVITIES
1. Interhospital Grand Rounds:
• March 18, 2005, IDH-IMH Consortium, "A case of Gastric Carcinoma"
• July 29, 2005, Western Visayas Medical Center, "Spine TB vs Neoplasm"
• Nov. 18, 2005, West Visayas State University Medical Center
2. Scientific Meeting Topics.
• Jan. 29, 2005, Intra Abdominal Infections
• March 4, 2005, IV Fluid Therapy: The Present (Fresenius)
• March 11, 2005, Laparoscopic Surgery & Ambulatory Open Herniorrhaphy
• May 8, 2005, Workshop on Research Methodology and Research Protocol Making
• May 21, 2005, EBCPG on Advanced Breast Cancer
• June 2, 2005, Iloilo Medical Society Convention, EBCPG for Acute Appendicitis and Acute Cholecystitis
• August 26, 2005, Revised EBCPG in the use of Prophylactic Antimicrobials for Surgery
• Sept. 3, 2005, Research Output (Research Paper Contest; Southern Conference), 1st Place: "A Comparison Between One-day Bowel Prep Using Sodium Phosphate and Two-day Bowel Prep Using Castor Oil"
3. Workshop
• The Community-Based Breast Cancer Control Program Free Clinics featuring instructionals on Breast Cancer and self breast-examination workshops, open biopsy or FNAB when necessary, Oct. 15, 2005

II SURGICAL OUTREACH SERVICES/MEDICAL MISSIONS
1. Surgical Mission in Cooperation with the 1st Gentleman's Cup Shooting Competition in the Island Province of Guimaras, May 4-8, 2005
2. Trauma Response Training Seminar-Workshop with PNRC, Boracay Disaster Coordinating Council and the Cinaco Tiol Memorial Hospital Foundation, Boracay Island, June 3-5, 2005
3. PCS Panay and PCS S.U.R.E. team with the trainors of the Philippine National Red Cross conducted a Wet Clinic, Surgical Mission and a Training Seminar for Community Lay Rescuers at the Boracay Island, Malay Aklan, June 3 - 5, 2005.

III. COMMUNITY SERVICES/SOCIO CIVIC ACTIVITIES
1. Coalition Making (with the Bosom Friends of Iloilo City) Toward a Community-Based Breast Cancer Control Program, May 21, 2005
2. The following had been the activities conducted and prospectively lined-up towards the Pink October (Breast Cancer Awareness Month) Celebration
• October 1, 2005, Motorcade around the main Iloilo City in cooperation with the Bosom Friends.
• October 7, 2005, TV interview on Breast Cancer "Ihaw, Kabulu Ka!" IBC Channel 12, 2-4PM
• October 7, 2005, Lay Breast Cancer Forum in collaboration with the Bosom Friends and participated in by a panel of experts. Interactive Symposium on Breast Cancer at a public auditorium.
• October 15, 2005, Community Breast Cancer Outreach in Brgy. South Fundidor, Molo, Iloilo City
• TV Lay Surgical Education Program: General Surgery Topics and Cancers. Schedule of Public Forum on Cancer Awareness
IBC TV Channel 12, 2-4 PM, every first (*)Friday of the Month.
• May 27, Lung Cancer
• June 24, Colon and Rectal Cancer
• July 29, Liver Cancer
• August 5*, Prostate Cancer
• September* 2, Stomach Cancer
• October 7*, Breast Cancer
• November 4*, Thyroid Cancer

IV. SPORTS AND SOCIALS/FELLOWSHIP
1. PCS Panay Basketball Team, SouthCon Participation
2. Surgeon-led formation of the Iloilo Physician Golfer's Association (IPGA)
3. General Assembly and All-Surgeon's Night and Elections. The 2 General Assembly meetings of the PCS-Panay, scheduled in the 1st and 4th quarters of the year are occasions for ALL surgeons to come together
• February 26, 2005, 1st General Assembly, Iloilo Business Hotel
• November 4, 2005, 2nd General Assembly, Annual Report and General Elections, "All Surgeons' Night Dinner Fellowship", 6PM, Poolside, Hotel del Rio

V. OTHERS
1. July 21, 2005, adopting the Community-based Breast Cancer Program in Iloilo City, to be developed by the Committee on Cancer as a Chapter program aimed to manifest a tangible Social Responsibility thrust in the community
2. Lay Trauma Response Training Program with the PNRC, launched in Boracay in June 2-4, 2005
3. MOA with the Panay Mangrove Conservation Project
4. School based SAFE KIDS

PCS SOUTHERN TAGALOG CHAPTER

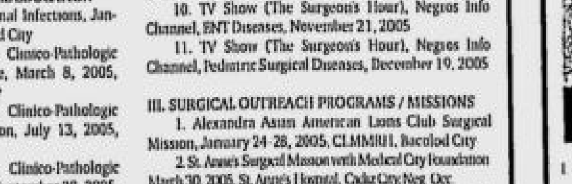
BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 2005
President : Elvis L. Bedia, MD
Vice President : Shirard Leonardo C. Adiviso, MD
Secretary : Emmanuel G. Diaz MD
Treasurer : Hernan C. Ang, MD
Auditor : Abdel Jeffri Abdullah, MD
Directors : George M. Alora, MD
Marcus Brillantes, MD
Chona del Mundo, MD
Rommel B. Lojo, MD
Vicente L. Santos, MD
Warren M. Ronaldo, MD

Governor : Domingo O. Ambrad, MD

I. Continuing Medical/Surgical Education
1. January 27, 2005, Scientific Lecture on Surgical Nutrition, Saisaki, Alabang, Muntinlupa City
2. February 5, 2005, Strategic Planning Workshop, Attended by the Chapter Presidents, Manolo Lopez Training Center, Antipolo, City
3. February 4, 2005, Scientific meeting on Management of Intraabdominal Infection
4. April 30, 2005, Chapter Swot Analysis and Strategic Planning, Putlod Bldg., Sucat, Muntinlupa
5. May 4-6, 2005, attended PCS Midyear Convention, Subic Freeport
6. June 30, 2005, Strategic Planning for Various Project with the Members of the Laguna Medical Society, PCS STC Tasked to handle the Cancer Committee and the Disaster Planning
7. August 4-6, 2005, attended the 3rd PSGS Surgical Forum, Shangrila Edsa, Manila
8. August 26, 2005, Scientific meeting on "Updates on Head Trauma", Vivere Hotel, Alabang Muntinlupa City
9. September 21, 2005, Scientific Meeting on "Updates On Pain Control Management", Gloria Maris Restaurant, Alabang, Muntinlupa City
10. Sept 22, 2005, Scientific meeting on Perioperative Management of Advanced Pancreatic Cancer: A case Based interactive Discussion, Pontefino Hotel, Batangas City
11. Oct 22-23, 2005, Disaster Preparedness Workshop, Binan, Laguna
12. November 7, 2005, Basic Lap Skill Workshop, Batangas

II. Surgical Mission/Outreach Services
1. January 24-27, 2005 - Surgical Mission in coordination with the Calamba Doctor's Hospital and Philippine Medical Association of Michigan. Catered to more than 50 patients of various surgical conditions.
2. June 24, 2005, Surgical/Medical Mission held at Multipurpose Hall Binan, Laguna, in Coordination with Laguna Medical Society and Office of the Municipal Mayor
3. October 23-27, 2005, Surgical Mission, Bohol

III. Community/Socio Civic Activities
1. February 4, 2005, Joint PCS PSGS Southern Tagalog Chapter Induction Ceremonies
2. March 9, 2005, Blood Letting Project, in coordination with the University of Perpetual Help College of Medical Technology
3. March 20, 2005, Operation "SUMMER TULI", In coordination with MOB Foundation, San Pedro, Laguna
4. April 16, 2005, Operation Tuli and Operation Bukol, In coordination with the Laguna Medical Society, Ospital ng Binan
5. May 22, 2005, Participated in "Bukol mo, Alis ko" Program, in coordination with the PSGS STC. Operated 100 patients, all minor surgery



6. June 24, 2005, Cancer Screening Program, in coordination with the Laguna Provincial Hospital
7. September 2, 2005, Blood Letting Activity, in coordination with the Laguna Red Cross and Binan Medical Society
8. September 9, 2005, Tree Planting Activity "A TREE FOR A FELLOW", Ospital ng Binan
9. October 1, 2005, Lay Forum On Breast Cancer, in coordination with the Home Cable and Royal Cable, aired on Oct. 15, 2005 in Laguna and in some areas of Batangas and Cavite, Joint Project of PCS STC, Ospital ng Binan and Sta Rosa Community Hospital
10. October 9, 2005, Tree Planting Activity, in coordination with Various NGOs of Laguna, Ospital ng Binan Compound
11. October 20, 2005, Lay forum on Breast Cancer and Launching of the Community Based Breast Cancer Awareness, Batangas Regional Hospital, Batangas City In coordination with the Batangas Medical Society and PSGS
12. October 23, 2005, Avon Fun Run

IV. Others
1. May 25, 2005, Formation and initial meeting of PLSL and Gyne Laparoscopy, Dencios Restaurant, Alabang, Muntinlupa City
2. November 8 2005, Golden Scalpel Award, Outstanding member of the Chapter

The Inductees

Abella, Allen C. / SLUHSH, 1988 / Obstetric and Gynecology / SLUHSH, 1993

Agon, Agustin D., Jr. / WVSU, 1991 / General Surgery / CCMC, 1999

Apusol, [illegible] B. / MCU, 1992 / General Surgery / TPH, 2002

Arenas, Ross Daniel M. / UST, 1993 / General Surgery / BMC, 2000

Avellanosa, Dale C. / CDCM, 1991 / General Surgery / CMC 1994

Ayro, Arnel Q. / SLUHSH, 1989 / TCVS / UP-PGH, 2002

Badua, Jo-Ann B. / SLUCM, 1986 / Obstetric and Gynecology / SLUHSH, 1992

Bandolon, Robert B / DMS, 1995 / Colorectal Surgery / JRRMMC, 2002

[illegible], Norma I / FEU-NRMF, 1980 / Obstetric and Gynecology / BGHMC, 1996

Bisquera, Arsenio C., Jr. / FEU NRMF, 1991 / General Surgery / FEU-NRMF, 2000

Blanco, Alex D / CIM, 1988 / General Surgery / CDUH, 1995

Buac, [illegible] / UST, 1992 / Urology / NKTI, 2002

Buganu, Amando D. / FEU NRMF, 1996 / General Surgery / QCGH, 2002

[illegible], Gilbert / FEU NRMF, [illegible] / General Surgery / [illegible]

Dy, Edwin C. / DCM, 1991 / General Surgery / FAMC 1998

[illegible], Roland T. / DLSCM, 1995 / General Surgery / MMC, 2002

Dalmacio, Johann / UST, 1991 / General Surgery / TAMC, 1998

de Guzman, Lora Mae A / UPCM, 1993 / Obstetric and Gynecology / UP-PGH, 199[illegible]

De Guzman, [illegible] / UST, 1992 / ENT Surgery / JRRMMC, 1997

[illegible], Pedro I / RTRMFCM, 1997 / General Surgery / DVRMH, 2002

Garcia, Manuel R., Jr. / DMSF, 1993 / General Surgery / DDH, 2002

[illegible], Ernesto [illegible] / UST, 1992 / Urology / NKTI, 2001

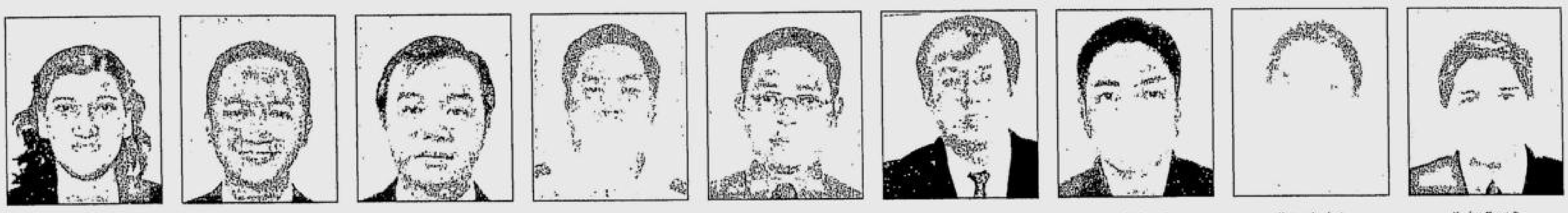
[illegible], Ramon Gregorio B., III / HHCM 1990 / General Surgery / BMC, 1996

[illegible], Michael N. / DMSF 1994 / General Surgery / SPH 2000

[illegible], Ramon Don G / FEU NRMF, 1997 / General Surgery / JRRMMC, 2002

Jugao, Richard B. / CIM, 1989 / General Surgery / CHH, 1995

[illegible] / UPCM, 1992 / General Surgery / UP-PGH, 1999



Singayan-Lacanilao, Dalvir G. / UST, 1997 / General Surgery / JRRMMC, 2003

Leonida, Lister P / WVSU, 1996 / General Surgery / SPH, 2002

Lim, Edrick H. / CDCM, 1990 / Pediatric Surgery / CGH, 1997

Manda, Benson N / DWU, 1994 / General Surgery / AFP, 2002

[illegible], Andrew F / SLU, 1993 / General Surgery / PJGMRMC, 1999

[illegible], Tagumpay A. / UPCM, 1991 / General Surgery / UP-PGH, 1998

[illegible], Jose Ramon B / UERMMMC, 1987 / Urology / UERMMMC, 1999

Martinez, [illegible] A. / UST, 1989 / Pediatric Surgery / CSMC, 1996

Mendoza, Florante B / FEU NRMF, 1983 / General Surgery / QCGH, 1991

Mercado, Oscar M., Jr. / UERMMMC, 1995 / General Surgery / STMC, 2002

Nocum, Roberto S. / MCU-FDTMF, 1990 / General Surgery / BGHMC, 2002

Olayvar, Jonathan L. / UST, 1993 / General Surgery / OH, 2001

Ong, Edison S / UERMMMC, 1995 / General Surgery / CGHMC, 2002

[illegible], Prospero T. / SLU, 1993 / General Surgery / TPH, 2001

Pascual, Rhoderick A. / FEU-NRMF, 1995 / General Surgery / SLMC, 2002

Pascual, Ricardo / DLSU, 1994 / General Surgery / OLLH, 2001

Raquel, [illegible] Jay / PLM, 1994 / General Surgery / OMMC, 2002

[illegible], Yul B / MCM, 1995 / General Surgery / MCM, 2001

Recto, Cesar F / FEU NRMF 1988 / General Surgery / VRPMC, 1999

San Pedro, Emmanuel C / UST, 1992 / TCVS / UP-PGH, 2001

Sih, [illegible] Marie T / UPCM, 1996 / Neurosurgery / UP-PGH, 2001

Solang, Elizabeth M / UST, 1983 / Obstetric and Gynecology / BGHMC, 1991

[illegible], Marben / WVSU, 1997 / General Surgery / [illegible] 2002

[illegible] Domingo, Manuel Ramon E., J[illegible] / UST, 1996 / General Surgery / MMC 2002

Su, Eileen May S / UST, 1992 / Obstetric and Gynecology / UP-PGH, 1998

Sy, Johnson L. / UST, 1992 / Urology / JRRMMC, 2001

Tablante, Liberty R. / CIM 1968 / General Surgery / HIH, 1974

Tan, Jose U., Jr / CDCM, 1993 / General Surgery / CDH, 1999

Te, Edgar D / DMSF, 1991 / General Surgery / DMC, 1997

[illegible]ndido, Venzel S.A. / FEU NRMF 1994 / General Surgery / MH, 2001

Toledo, Leonardo G / BCCM, 1984 / General Surgery / JLGMH, 2002

[illegible], Jose L. / SLUHSH, 1989 / Obstetric and Gynecology / SLUHSH, 1996

Velasquez, Raymond [illegible] / FEU NRMF, 1994 / General Surgery / FEU NRMF, 2001

FELLOWHIP PLEDGE

I pledge myself to abide by and uphold the principles and regulations of the Philippines College of Surgeons;

I shall practice my profession with dignity and maintain the Noble traditions of medicine, placing the welfare of my patients above all else;

I shall endeavor to advance constantly in knowledge and willingly extend help to my colleagues when asked to do so;

I shall consecrate myself to the service of human life and shall not use my knowledge contrary to the laws of humanity;

I shall perform my civic duties as a citizen of the Republic of the Philippines;

These promises I freely make upon my honor, I shall keep.

SO HELP ME GOD.

Friends of PCS

Abbott Laboratory
Aldril/Randril
Astra Zeneca
B. Braun Medical Supplies, Inc.
Bayer Phils., Inc.
BDM Enterprises
Berovan Marketing
Biomedica Health Care, Inc.
Biomedis, Inc.
Blue Sky Trading Co., Inc.
Bristol Myers Squibb
Calmoseptine Phils., Inc.
Coloplast
Denmar Enterprises
Dispo Phils & Practika Phils., Inc.
Euro-Med Laboratories, Phils., Inc.
Fairbright Ent. Inc.
Fernando Enterprises, Inc.
Fresenius Kabi
GlaxoSmithKline
HealthTech Medical, Inc.
Intermedequip, Inc.
Johnson & Johnson Medical Phils.
Kimberly Clarke
Landco Pacific Corp.
Lantaka Dist. Corp./Health Vision Corp.
Merck Sharp & Dohme
Medicotek, Inc.
Metropolitan Pharma. Prods., Inc.
Mundi Pharma
Natrapharm-Patriot
Nestle Phils.
Novartis
NPK Medical Trading, Inc.
Pan Pharma
Pfizer, Inc.
Pharmasia-Cuvest
Saviour MeDevices, Inc.
Schering Plough
Southeast Star Enterprises
Technomed International, Inc.
The Boots Co. Phils., Inc.
The Cathay Drug Co., Inc.
The Getz Group of Companies
(Convatec-Getz Pharma)
Titanium Implants
United American Pharmaceuticals
United Laboratories, Inc.
Westmont Pharmaceuticals
Wyeth Phils.
Zenith Medical Equipment, Inc.

HYMN

We are Fellows of PCS
We've a pledge on which we stand:
To give of talents time and skill,
To give a helping hand;
We'll strive to serve without regard
Of color, creed or station,
We shall seek to broaden knowledge,
Each discovery we'll share;
As a tribute to dear life
And for the good of all mankind;
Let us dedicate ourselves to life
As surgeons of the land!
Words and Music by:
Eleazar O. Sarmiento, M.D., FPCS

Surgeon to the Barrio

Allan B. Melicor, M.D., FPCS

IT WAS A TYPICAL CLINIC DAY - PEOPLE FROM MANY PARTS OF THE province and beyond milling at the waiting room for their turn to register for the days' clinic - others at the laboratory for their tests, and at the OPD lobby for the morning devotion with the hospital chaplain.

At mid-morning, I received an emergency call from the radio room.

The person on the other end said, "We have a woman up in the mountain who delivered the night before. It's been over 8 hours and the placenta hasn't come out yet. The lady is turning pale and has lost quite a sizable amount of blood!"

"A case of placental retention" I thought, "Where does the lady live?" I asked.

"She is a Higaunon and her village is up in a mountain between the border of Bukidnon and Misamis Oriental," was the reply.

"How do I get there?" I asked.

"Our mission group has a plane and my husband flies the plane; he can take you there."

Grabbing my medical bag, I hopped onto my motorbike and ran to the town airstrip. The pilot was already there and the plane was already out of the hangar.

After a 25-minute flight over the tree-topped mountains of Bukidnon, what could have taken 3 days by land, we crossed the provincial border and soon after, the village landing strip loomed ahead.

The pilot skillfully landed the plane, approaching the strip at the south end.

The missionary couple and the rest of the village folks were already there waiting for us. We then trooped to the lady's house.

She was indeed pale, and a pool of blood was between her legs. She was covered with blankets to keep her warm and decent.

I donned a pair of sterile gloves and checked her birth canal. The placenta was indeed stuck and the cord was protruding out.

I gently introduced my gloved hand inside. I felt around the placenta following its cord. I insinuated my fingers around its edge, and like a leaf of a book, gently peeled it off from its uterine bed. With gentle peeling and steady pull, the placenta finally gave way. I cupped it in my hand and pulled it out. A gash of liquid and clotted blood came with it.

The lady was conscious all throughout. She was then given a warm glass of evaporated milk. She did pretty well.

I was told later that she recovered fully and was back to work in their farm and to caring for their children.

The Call

It was in med school when the Lord impressed in my heart to be involved with total-person medicine. Man is not just flesh and blood but a being with soul and spirit as well. Just simply treating the body would not give permanent cure. But treating the soul and the spirit through the ministry of reconciliation in Christ would mean that this person could be made well forever. This opened my eyes and I committed myself to pursuing this in my life and in my practice of medicine.

I visited a mission hospital in Leyte, and there I saw how a missionary surgeon beautifully combined the physical and the spiritual aspect of his work. It was also there that I realized that in the barrio, knowledge in surgery was very important in caring for patients. Surgical emergencies would require the presence of a surgeon's services; otherwise the patient's life might be endangered. Long distance travel to get such services in big town and/or urban areas might further imperil the patient's life; that is, if the patient could even get a reliable transport to bring him/her there.

Finishing my residency training in General Surgery at UP-PGH in 1986, I went back to the mission hospital in Leyte. After serving in other mission hospitals in Aklan, and Palawan, I shifted my base to Malaybalay, Bukidnon. From here, I get the chance to visit the "barrios" around

The Countryside

Majority of our people live in the countryside. Most of the produce that sustain our country are from the countryside, the "barrio." Many of the hands that kept our country going are from the "barrio." Thus, we need the barrio. We cannot ignore the barrio. We benefit much from the barrio. We must then care for our "barrio."

Health is a basic need. And the folks in the barrio do deserve and have the same right to receive the best possible medical and surgical care that the city folks are getting.

Most of these higher centers in the urban areas are inaccessible to the rural folks. Most of them are beyond the financial reach of those in the barrio. Lack of adequate and safe transport has added to the inaccessibility of these centers.

Rather than crowding in the cities and vie for a limited population of patients, our medical and surgical experts can very well go to the barrio, even to urbanized rural towns, where their expertise are acutely needed. With such movement of experts, technology naturally follows. Our barrio folks then don't have to be deprived of these services and technology.

I have seen this at Bethel Baptist Hospital in Malaybalay, Bukidnon, where I currently serve. Through the years, I saw the hospital grow in size, in the numbers and quality of instruments and equipment. Stapling devices and endoscopic equipment have become available. The medical staff has also grown from two doctors to now a compliment of eight doctors, majority of them had gone through residency and in-house training.

The laboratory at Bethel has been adjudged as a tertiary lab in what it can perform. So patients do not have to travel far to get their tests. The hospital now has one of the newest ultrasound and x-ray machines in the province, manned by a well-trained radiologist.

A Continuing Saga

It was just like any other day… the phone rings. A lady is on the other end of the line… an emergent call from another tribal village accessible via an ill-maintained logging road. The nearest hospital was 5 hours away by motorcycle.

A young man accidentally sat on a knife, and was bleeding from behind. She asks, "Doctor, can you please help this man?"

I grab my bag, a set of instruments, sutures, and IV fluids, hop on the motorbike and get on the same 4-seater to another village 40 minutes away..

ROAD TALK

Ethanol gains momentum in world market trading

Ethanol, or ethyl alcohol, is on its way to trading like a mainstream world commodity as soaring prices for crude oil and gasoline push consumers to use more "green" fuels produced from renewable resources like sugar, corn and soybeans.

The damage done to US crude production and refining in the Gulf of Mexico by hurricanes Katrina and Rita has increased the focus on ethanol and related products like biodiesel as alternatives.

Brazil is the world's leading producer and exporter of ethanol, derived from its huge sugar cane crop. It already blends its domestic gasoline with 25 percent ethanol and is looking to US, Japanese and Indian markets to double exports in coming years.

In the United States ethanol production is corn-based. Corn is harder to grow than sugar and corn starch is less efficiently fermentable than sugar carbohydrates.

Despite its possible economic and environmental advantages over fossil fuel, ethanol faces significant hurdles to widespread use, including high costs, limited land and water availability and mixed government and corporate support.

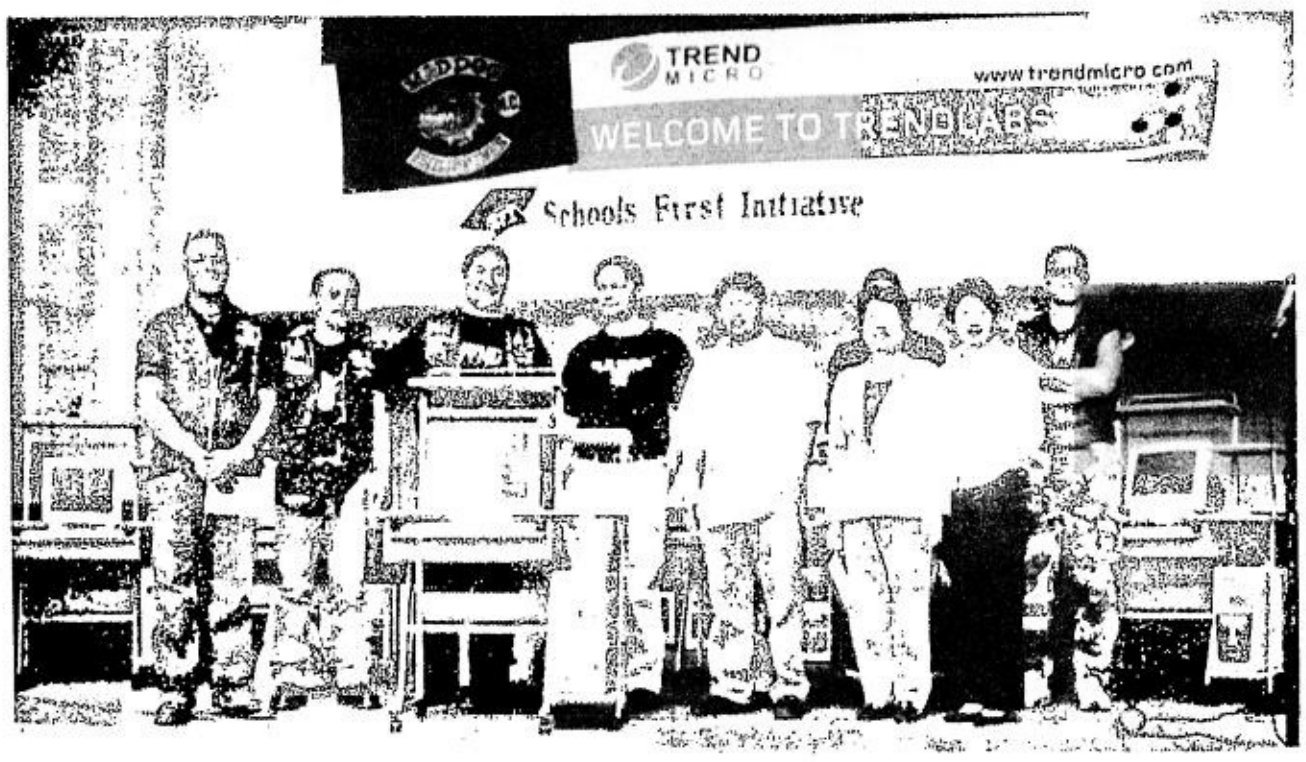
The International Energy Agency estimates that under the most optimistic scenario ethanol could make up 10 percent of world gasoline by 2025.

Ethanol futures contracts at the New York Board of Trade and the Chicago Mercantile Exchange have low liquidity, which tends to put off investors who want protection from price swings.

Also gaining force as an alternative fuel is biodiesel, a diesel fuel made from vegetable oils such as soybean oil or animal fats. *Reuters*

ROAD TRAFFIC SAFETY CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Toyota Motor Philippines Corp has been chosen by the Automotive Association of the Philippines (AAP) and the National Center for Transportation Studies of the University of the Philippines (UP-NCTS) to initiate the conduct of road safety conferences. This partnership is in line with Toyota's campaign on road traffic safety aimed at improving public awareness, education and discipline among motorists, pedestrians and traffic enforcers. The first conference, titled 'Conference on Vulnerable Road Users', was successfully held recently at the AIM Conference Center in Makati City. Stakeholders from both private and public sectors attended. The memorandum of agreement for the Road Traffic Safety Conference Program was signed by (from left) UP-NCTS represented by Dr. Hilario Sean O. Palmiano, Toyota Motor Philippines president Nobuharo Tabata, and AAP president Augusto C. Lagman.



MAD DOG MOTORCYCLE CLUB IN COMPUTER LITERACY PROJECT

Palanan Elementary School in Makati City reverberated recently to the roar of Harley Davidsons as members of Mad Dog, the country's most recognized motorcycle club, in partnership with Trend Micro, one of the world's top antivirus software companies, donated over a dozen Pentium 4 computers for the school's computer literacy pilot program. Shown is school principal Cecilia Payumo and Barangay Captain Arnold Magpantay receiving the computers complete with tables from Mad Dog Motorcycle Club members headed by president Jerry Echter and Trend Micro's Bill Busse. Trend Micro and the Mad Dogs strongly believe in the importance of education to promote a better future for Filipino children.

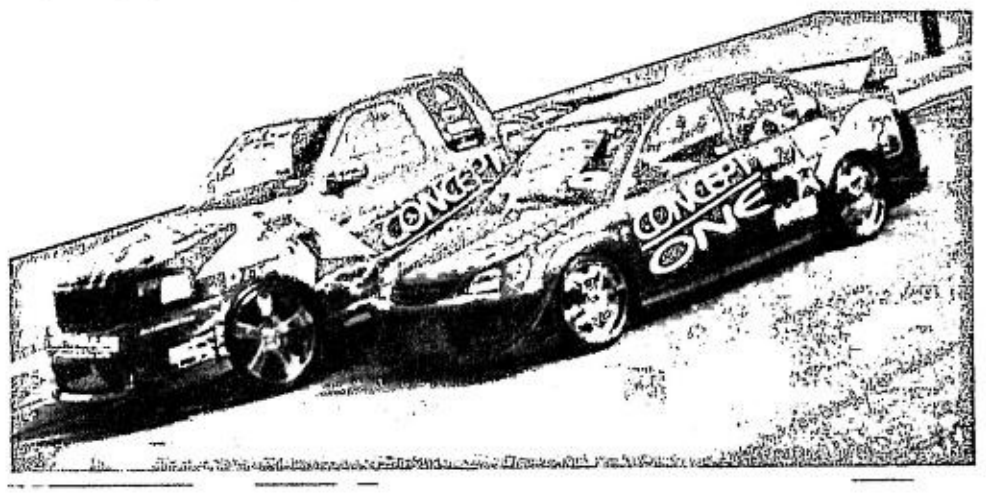
Cars dressed to thrill

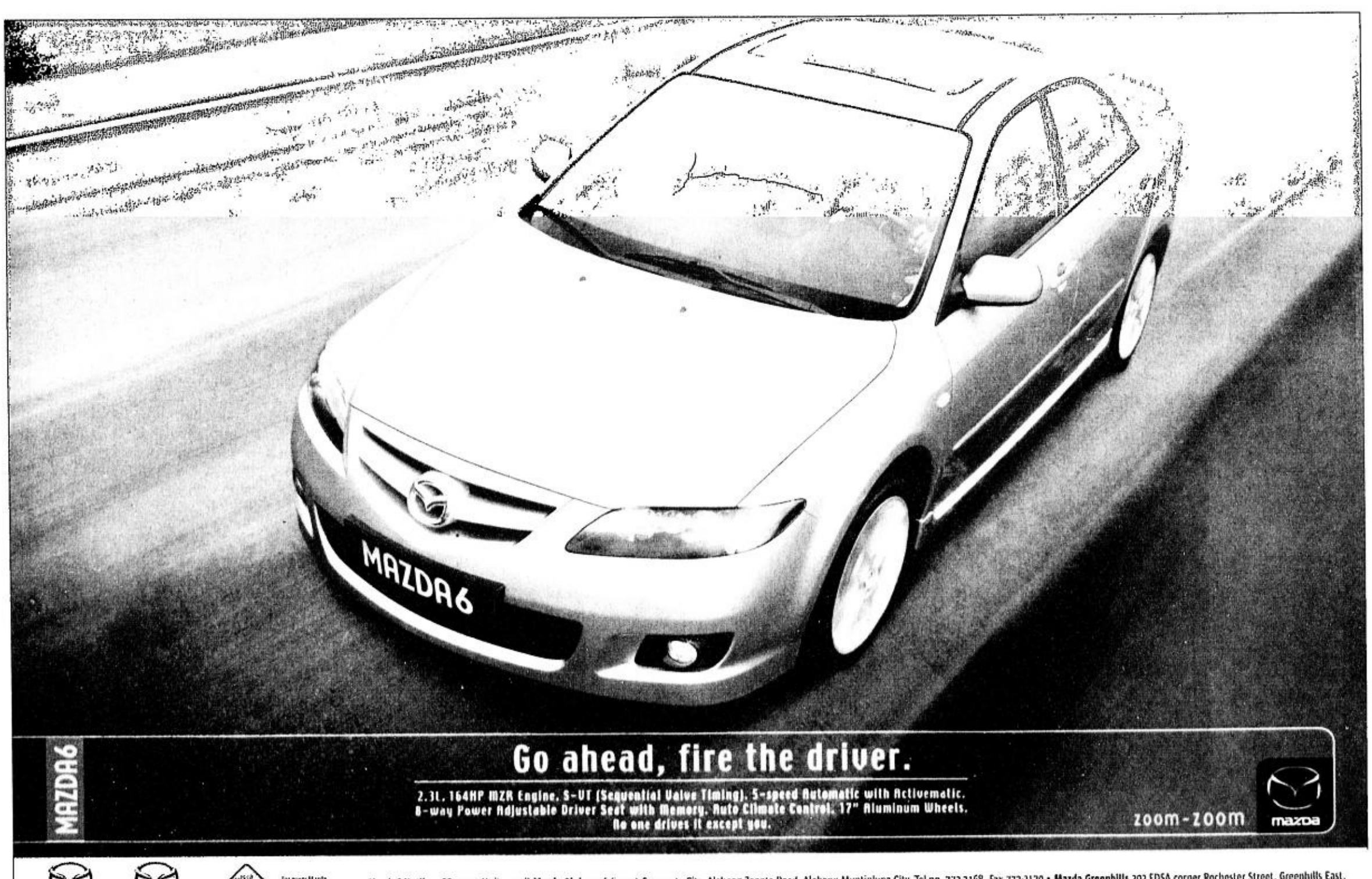
THE AUTOMOBILE AS AN ART FORM WAS the driving force behind the design concept of Wheel Gallery's slammed Ford F150 and Honda Civic. Boasting of a unique airbrush design by Air Art Asia, Concept One's F150 rolls on 24-inch MKW chrome wheels wrapped in high-performance Nitto Tires. Adding glitz to the slammed pick-up is the wraparound aero kit by A-Toy Bodykits, a set of powerful Xenon headlamps for extreme nighttime visibility, suspension set up by Bilstein and an audio system loud enough to be heard a block away courtesy of Sony Xplod and Ginza.

The Civic, on the other hand, is an example of what can happen to a car when subjected to the creativity and talent of local tuners. Concept One's Honda Civic is a rolling form of art thanks to a specially designed kit by A-Toy Bodykits, Lamborghini-style doors, air bag suspension system, Xenon lamps, Sony Xplod audio system set up by G-Audio and rolls on massive 20-inch TIS chrome wheels and Nitto tires. To complement the show set up of the show-stopping Civic, Fusion R bolted on a turbo-intercooler system adding 60 percent horsepower to the VTEC engine. "A Civic with 20-inch wheels is a first in the local market. It not just looks good, it handles and drives like a dream as well," says Michelle Aberin of Wheel Gallery.

The crew of tuners known as the Aftermarket Mafia recently dominated the 2005 Caltex-Delo Custom Car and Truck Show at the SM Megamall by carting away 20 awards in different categories.

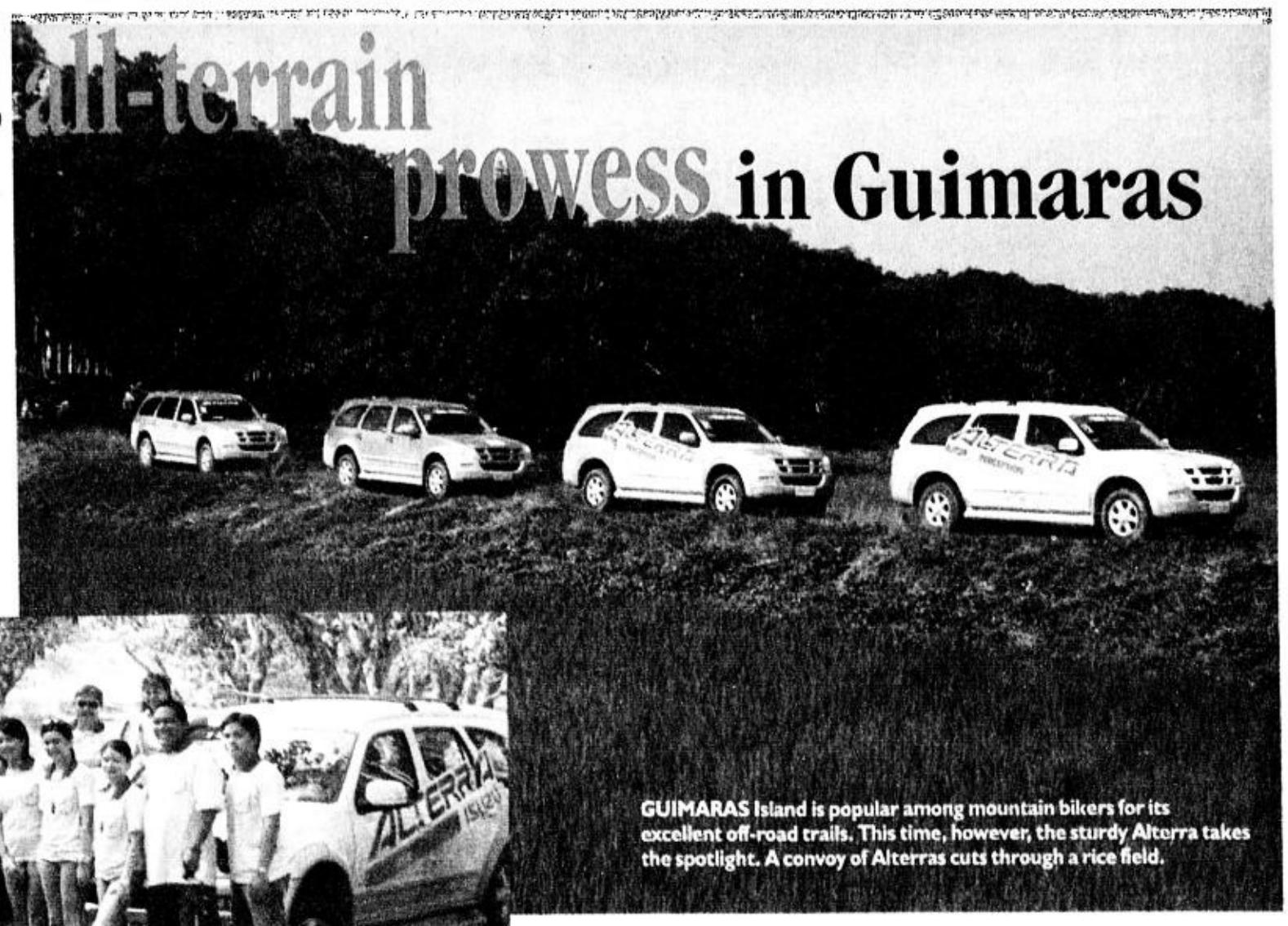
For those who want their rides to become "concept cars", just dial up and get hooked: Wheel Gallery 726-0965 or www.conceptonewheels.com; A-Toy at 411-5858 or www.a-toybodykits.com; Xenon Bulbs 716-0348 or www.xenon-bulbs.com; Bilstein 732-8915 or wilman@skyinet.net and Sony Xplod at 938-0526.





Alterra displays all-terrain prowess in Guimaras

A small but picturesque island off the coast of Iloilo known for its mangoes, Guimaras boasts kilometers of roads and trails that wind through hills, farms, mango and coconut groves, and fields of large, dark, boulders; the perfect habitat for Isuzu's newest SRV



GUIMARAS Island is popular among mountain bikers for its excellent off-road trails. This time, however, the sturdy Alterra takes the spotlight. A convoy of Alterras cuts through a rice field.

MEMBERS of the motoring media and Isuzu Philippines Corp take a break from the busy itinerary and pose for posterity.

ISUZU PHILIPPINES CORP, HEADED BY corporate business division vice president Arthur Balmadrid, recently staged the media test drive "Isuzu Alterra Perfect Combination Drive 2" in Guimaras Province, Western Visayas. Isuzu's Alterra, whose name was coined to mean "all-terrain", was to meet the perfect place to test its all-terrain capabilities.

And so it was on a rainy weekend that IPC's Art Balmadrid again led a pack of motoring journalists to the island of Guimaras on a variety of vehicles-a plane, motorized banca, five Alterras and a tractor-pulled tram. With him in the Isuzu team were Joseph Bautista, Timmy Naval, Ronald Baladad, Joy Andrada, Ellen Dizon and Hermes Canon.

The charm that endeared the Alterra to the motoring journalists was not under the hood or the chassis; it was inside the cabin. Space (three-row seating with easily collapsible third row) and an entertainment system lulled the weary travelers from restlessness.

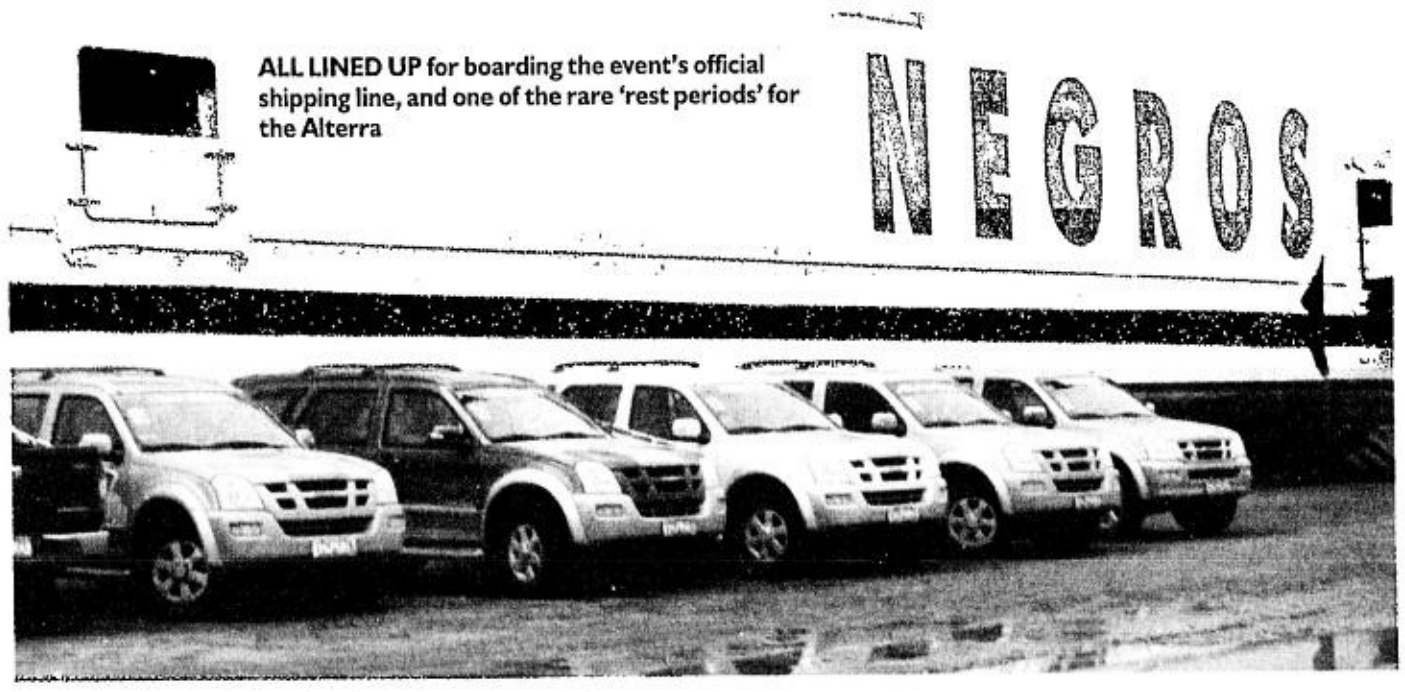
The Alterra is Isuzu's newest sport recreational vehicle that has all the good looks of an SUV, all the versatile features of a multipurpose mover, and all the creature comforts of a passenger sedan. Isuzu engineers designed the Alterra with the modern lifestyle in mind, achieving a delicate balance between performance and versatility. The all-new Alterra communicates the dynamism of this modern lifestyle chiefly with its unique graphic design that features, among others, a symmetrical U-shaped panoramic line apparent when the vehicle is viewed directly from the front or the rear. Isuzu calls this design motif "mono form." As a result, the Alterra looks clean and sleek but subtly aggressive. No more clumsy lines and curves typical of most sport-utes. The profile and the rear view especially convey the impression that this vehicle is always ready to pounce.

Other noteworthy design cues of the Alterra include: special-design side step board that perfectly matches the overfender; elegant 16-inch aluminum alloy wheels with 245/70 R16 tires; upscale large, crystal headlamps with fog lamps; LED-type turning lights on side mirrors; color-keyed roof rail; rear windshield defogger; rear door integrated spoiler with third brake lamp; and chrome tailpipe finisher.

More important than the attractive styling, however, is the power plant residing under the Alterra's hood. Designated the 4JJ-1 I-TEQ, this third-generation DOHC common-rail direct-injection diesel engine supplies no less than 180 megapascals (MPa) of pressure to its electronically controlled injection nozzles. Common-rail pressure is the main key to better diesel engine performance, since higher pressure naturally results in a more efficient fuel combustion.

In Guimaras, the group made courtesy calls on Provincial Governor JC Rahman Nava and his brother, Felipe Nava, mayor of Jordan, the capital town, and Diosdado Gonzaga, mayor of Nueva Valencia, the site of the Guisi Lighthouse built in 1896 by the Spaniards.

The event was also made possible by Caltex Philippines Inc as the official fuel provider of Isuzu Alterra vehicles and Negros Navigation as the official shipping line of the event.



ALL LINED UP for boarding the event's official shipping line, and one of the rare 'rest periods' for the Alterra

NEW LEGACY PLANT IN CEBU

Norkis Group's Porta Coeli Industrial Co recently inaugurated the new Legacy plant at the Compostela Industrial Complex in Cebu, for the production of the Legacy First. A compact personal and business car using a 660cc 3-cylinder engine, it can run 15 km on a liter of fuel. Designed by Norkis patriarch Norberto Quisumbing Jr, the Legacy First was launched in Cebu in August 2004, and in Manila by end 2004. Shown after the formal blessing is Quisumbing Jr flanked by DTI Undersecretaries Carissa P. Cruz and Elmer Hernandez, with the Legacy First in the background. The plant site used to be a 5-hectare mango plantation and was converted into an industrial complex in the late 1980s. Quisumbing also developed the Multicab, which is now widely used in the Visayas and Mindanao.

CAR COMPANIES CHOOSE TNT EXPRESS

TNT International Express, the world's leading provider of business-to-business express delivery services, recently served as the official express and logistics company during the Autoshop 2005 and Pro-Audio Light Music and Technology (PALMM) 2005 exhibits at the World Trade Center in Pasay City. Autoshop 2005, on its 4th year, showcased a wide range of car models from leading automotive manufacturers, accessories, detailing products, lubricants, and fuel saving devices. Shown is Department of Transportation and Communication Undersecretary Ricardo Alfonso (2nd from left) together with (from left) Volkswagen Philippines president Dr. Cesar Martires, Technical Guild for Entertainment president Robbie Lopez, Audio Engineering Society president Dar Quintos, Automotive Association of the Philippines president Augusto Lagman Jr, and Global Link deputy managing director Jing Lagandaon and TNT Express major accounts officer Nikki Pimentel and marketing officers Mitch Perez and Cindy Consul.

HCMI wins gold in productivity contest

HONDA CARS MAKATI INC (HCMI) SCORED a major victory when it won the Gold Award in the 2005 Productivity Improvement Circles National Convention (PICNC) held recently at the Westin Philippine Plaza. The convention was organized by the Productivity Improvement Circles Association of the Philippines (Picap).

HCMI, represented by Q' Data from the service department of Honda Cars Makati, was the first car dealership to win the highest award in the non-production category of the competition. Only two out of the seven companies were certified as gold projects in this category.

Q' Data was recognized for its project "Increasing Number of Units Received with Appointment". The project aims to increase the number of cars received for servicing by 40 percent through speedy accommodation of appointments and walk-ins as well as ensure prompt delivery of serviced units.

The latest victory of Q' Data comes as a back-to-back success for the group, who also bagged a gold award in the 25th Annual Quality Circles Regional Convention in July that qualified it for the national convention.

The members of the winning team are Joel Pagaduan, adviser, Chai Misa, leader, Pia Milanes, secretary, Henry Ramos, Emee Belarmino, Ronald Padernos, Angelo Garcia, Jun Espinosa and Cris Antonio.

Shown is Q' Data together with HCMI officers (standing from left) Ailene Dosayla, HR training and development head; CJ Lingad, Honda Cars Pasig HR officer; Jane Dimatera, HR flow and admin head; Kathrina Ong, HR assistant, TQM; Art Castro, Honda Cars Pasig production control officer; Lucille Banzon, Honda Cars Makati customer relations officer; and Joanne Antonio, Honda Cars Makati HR officer. Shown at the front row, from left, are Philip Posadas, QCPA president; Susan Santillan, internal audit manager; Monina Macavinta, HR group head; Arnold Tamayo, Honda Cars Makati service manager; and Honda Cars Pasig HR assistant Ivy Evangelista.

Honda Cars Makati Inc, with branches in Makati, Pasig, Alabang, and Shaw, is a member of the Ayala group of companies.

Eco Run shows Honda City's fuel efficiency

HONDA CITY OWNERS WERE AMAZED at the fuel consumption results of their cars during the recently concluded second leg of this year's "Xtra Amazing Fuel Eco Run".

Honda, in cooperation with Petron, embarked on this 4-series fuel economy event to drum up awareness on efficient driving techniques in the face of spiraling gasoline costs. Traversing a total of 45 km of highway and city driving, participants squeezed in amazing fuel mileage in their Honda City carrying the fuel-efficient I-DSI engine.

New Honda car owner Joaquin Ladrido could not believe he was able to drive around Metro Manila cruising through Pasay, Manila, Quezon City and Caloocan with traffic, consuming less than two liters of gasoline only. His official record posted an unbelievable 23 km per liter.

AT THE FLAG off, from left are Antonio Nabong (Science Research Specialist, Department of Energy), Lemuel Cuezon of Petron Corp marketing coordination, Director Mario Marasigan (Energy Utilization Management Bureau) and Honda Cars deputy marketing head Arnel Doria.

"My wife and I are very pleased with the results and we're looking forward to participating in the next legs if given the chance," Ladrido said.

Novice driver Arabella Ricafort has been driving for only a few months but she was able to beat the other participants using her manual transmission City as she topped the run with 28 km per liter.

A total of 23 customer teams and seven media teams competed in the event, posting amazing results in fuel consumption. Co-sponsored by Pioneer, Motolite and BPI/MS Insurance, this year's winners are: Arabella Ricafort (City MT) posting 28.22 km/liter; Patrick Chua (City CVT) garnering 25.25 km/liter; Dino Directo and Ferdie Baja (media: City CVT): 24.83 km/liter; and Aris Ilagan and Raymond Young (Jazz CVT): 23.97 km/liter.

Participants followed a fixed route traveling through Roxas Boulevard (from Pasay to Kaloocan) and along Edsa (from Kaloocan to Pasay). Various road works along Edsa created heavy traffic which made the run more challenging as participants applied all permissible fuel-economizing techniques to achieve the least fuel consumption. Totaling 45 km, participants took an average of two hours to finish the whole run.

Department of Energy representatives Director Mario Marasigan and Antonio Nabong graced the event and encouraged participants to support the government's program in conserving energy through employing efficient and effective driving techniques.

WINNERS were joined by Honda executives Arnel Doria, Takashi Sekiguchi, Gabby Peren; Director Mario Marasigan of the DOE and Bianca Co of Petron Corp.

All participants were treated to lunch and winners awarded at Grappa's in Harbor Square at the end of the run. Each winner was rewarded P5,000 in cash and P5,000 worth of Petron gasoline, including a free Honda Hydrophilic Paint job. The next legs are scheduled on Jan. 14 and 28. Visit the Honda dealer nearest you now for details, or log on to www.hondaphil.com.

The Amazing Fuel Eco Run is also made possible through the support of media partners DWRT, DWKX, Jam 88.3 and DWWW.

KAWASAKI'S NEW MOPED

Kawasaki Motors Philippines Corp (KPMC) recently unveiled its latest and most superior moped type motorcycle. Straight from the highly successful ZX Series, the new Kawasaki ZX 130 raises the level of innovation in quality, style and performance not found in other brands. Shown beaming with pride behind the new Kawasaki ZX 130 model are KMPC general manager for sales and marketing Rodel Pablo (left) and KMPC president Michio Yamaguchi.

BICYCLE, EQUIPMENT GEAR

As we prepare for the Christmas holidays, Filipinos are looking forward to out-of-town trips with family and friends. While some may opt to go cool their heels on a resort down south or up north, active and sporty individuals usually explore the great outdoors on bicycles. For this reason, Thule provides you with the solution to maximize your cars, AUV or SUVs loading capacity via the Thule 9108 Clip-On High. It has a unique Snap On Clamp Type Locking Mechanism that ensures a 100-percent guarantee in carrying your bikes along safely. The Thule 9108 is the same bike carrier used by bike teams in the recently concluded Tour de France. Its convenient features and superb build quality made it the bike carrier of choice in the Tour de France. You can also maximize the passenger space of your car or SUV with Thule's line of roof boxes. Shown is a Toyota Fortuner equipped with the Thule Roof Box and Bike Rack. For more information on how to gear up and make your vacation a more adventurous one, load up and visit the Thule-EGR showrooms in Ortigas Avenue with telephone numbers 744-6367, and Pasong Tamo with telephone numbers 892-7847. Log on to www.thule.com.

Window visors for sleek form, practical functions

THE AUTOMOBILE DOOR VISOR IS BEcoming a popular accessory among motorists. This not only acts as a functional dress-up kit for your car, but it also offers many conveniences to the motorist: it protects from the rain as well as from the sun. The Deflector Weather Guard functions against the wind, sun and rain as well as performs other safety aspects such as when the vehicle is parked with the window slightly opened.

Made from high-grade 100-percent poly acrylic material that is UV stabilized for outdoor exposure, the Deflector Weather Guard has shown remarkable resistance to the sun's heat and ultraviolet rays. It also won't warp, break or fade even after five years of continuous exposure to sunlight. In addition to the high-quality material, it uses adhesive type mounting, thus doing away with clips or screws, which can be the main sources of corrosion and wind noise. As proven in actual test runs at a speed of 170 kph, metal screws cannot withstand air resistance, and with the clip type, such high-speeds damage the window channel and likewise cause irritating noises.

Deflector window visors come in various sizes that are compatible with most Japanese, Korean and American vehicles. The Deflector brand is exclusively distributed by Primal Enterprises Corp. Call 743-7476 or 743-7479 for more details.

HONDA
The Power of Dreams

Wish List Twist

L W O M N O T L H Y

AS LOW AS P 6,510 FOR CITY A

Unscramble the mystery words above then rush to your nearest Honda dealer!

Easy-Own installment plans available for all Honda models!

Model / Variant	SRP	Downpayment as low as 18%	Low Monthly Plan 30% DP, 60 mos
CITY 1.3 A MT	P 561,000	P 84,150	P 6,510
JAZZ 1.3 S MT	P 632,000	P 94,800	P 7,107
CIVIC 1.6 VTi MT	P 747,000	P 112,050	P 7,986
CR-V 2.0 SP MT 2WD	P 1,042,000	P 156,300	P 11,805
ACCORD 2.4 VTi AT Selected models only	P 1,202,000	P 180,300	P 13,494

All plans are subject to bank approval (BPI Family Savings Bank and RCBC Savings Bank)

Promo extended until November 30, 2005 only!*

*Approved by DTI-NCR

Per DTI-NCR Permit No 5971 Series of 2005

Visit any authorized dealers for details:

Metro Manila
Honda Cars Makati Inc Tel No (02) 852 4101 Fax No 852 1158
Honda Cars Alabang Tel No (02) 807 1800 Fax No 809 5052
Honda Cars Kamuning, Inc. Tel No (02) 366 5701 Fax No 361 8445
Honda Cars Pasig Tel No (02) 634 2750 Fax No 637 2082
Honda Cars Quezon City Inc Tel Nos (02) 712 6650 to 61, Fax No 732 8559
Honda Cars Shaw Tel No (02) 717 1081 Fax No 725 7813
Honda Cars Manila Tel No (02) 562 4548 Fax No 564 7338
Honda Cars Fairview Tel Nos (02) 9350655 9352613 Fax No 9357864
Honda Cars Marikina Tel Nos (02) 6426202 9380512 Fax No 9423581

Provincial
Honda Cars Cebu Inc Tel No (032) 2313502 Fax No (032) 2314488
Honda Cars San Pablo Inc Tel Nos (049) 5627713 to 14 Fax No (049) 5627712
Honda Cars Pangasinan, Inc Tel Nos (075) 5221488 to 89 Fax No (075) 5173739
Honda Cars Davao Inc Tel Nos (082) 2217406 2222171 Fax No (082) 2217407
Honda Cars Pampanga Inc Tel No (045) 9835119 Fax No (045) 9835554
Honda Cars Negros Occidental Tel No (034) 7078000 Fax No (034) 4411278
Honda Cars Tarlac, Inc Tel Nos (045) 9825002 to 06 Fax No (045) 9826007
Honda Cars Cagayan De Oro Tel Nos (088) 8584010 to 12 Fax No (088) 8584015
Honda Cars Gen. Santos, Inc Tel Nos (083) 5530700 to 07 Fax No (083) 2013100
Honda Cars Iloilo Inc Tel No (033) 5521245 Fax No (033) 5521248
Honda Cars Mandaue Tel No (032) 4223700, Fax No (032) 4223600

www.hondaphil.com

HYUNDAI Embarks On Its Highly Anticipated Motorshow

Discover a new breed of breakthrough diesel-fueled automobiles and luxury vehicles in the country today.

The future of motoring is here today as Hyundai Asia Resources, Inc. proudly brings to you its first and most prestigious motorshow to date, the Hyundai **Drive Your Way with Hyundai Motorshow '05.**

Get your gears ready to go full throttle with a wide array of lifestyle vehicles that will capture your senses. Witness the unveiling of some of the automotive industry's most ingenious creations. Learn more about the latest issues in automobile features, designs, trends and engine technology, like the revolutionary CRDi or Common Rail Direct Injection diesel engine. Discover how much value you can get from its revolutionary diesel ingenuity.

In a celebration of beauty, brawn, power and style in a setting like none other of its magnitude, Hyundai pulls off all the stops in what is yet to be their biggest event in the country. The theme for the entire motorshow revolves around the balanced engineering that went into every Hyundai vehicle, and their commitment to stay true to their vision of creating innovative solutions for the motoring public. It is a fusion of advanced technologies for superb driving convenience and fuel efficiency with less environmentally hazardous engine emissions. In effect, it is a spectacle not to be missed and a celebration of the achievements of man and machine working together for a brighter future.

Having fulfilled its promise of always being there for the customer, as fostered in its previous battle cry, "Always There For You", Hyundai is now embarking on a bigger, bolder journey with its new rallying call, "Drive Your Way". Capturing the spirit of Hyundai as a refined and confident automobile brand, "Drive Your Way" is about the new generation of customer who knows what he wants and how to get it; who recognizes his individuality and celebrates his uniqueness. "Drive Your Way" is about providing this customer the freedom he demands to become the person he is meant to be. Ultimately, it is about Hyundai bringing the customer back to himself. Trailing this renewed vision, HARI underscores focus on the evolved mindset of customers in order to push Hyundai far into their consciousness. By knowing the penchant of its target market, HARI is able to build a strong brand equity, which is now gradually being recognized by the Philippine automotive industry.

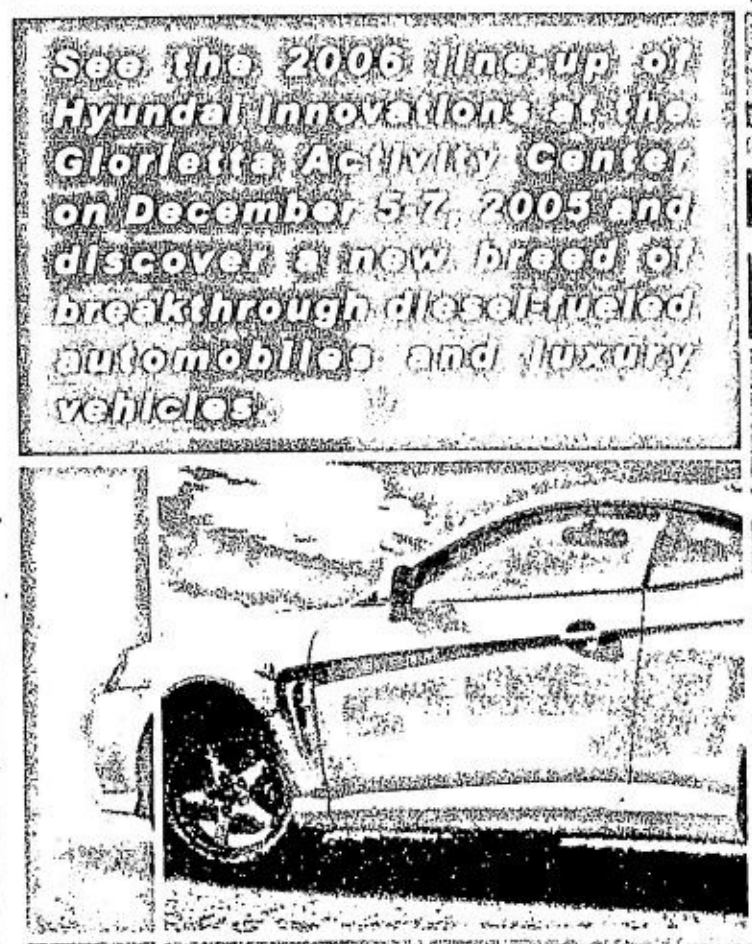
Here are some of the CRDi-powered models to look forward to at the **Drive Your Way with Hyundai Motorshow '05**. The Starex GRX CRDi, a family favorite now made even better as it becomes the first family van that uses CRDi engine technology. Tucson 4x4, the first 4-wheel drive SUV with a CRDi technology infused engine. There is the Accent, the first CRDi sedan in the country-- a combination of engine efficiency and luxurious styling. The Matrix CRDi, proven time and time again to be a fuel-efficient MPV among Hyundai's Most Practical Vehicle line. Even the ever lovable Getz now sports the CRDi, making it the coolest hot hatch with the hottest engine that gives more mileage and power.

An engine technology making waves across Europe, CRDi, using Common Rail technology improves power and performance, lessens engine wear and tear along with minimizing engine noise, vibration and harmful emissions while providing optimum diesel fuel-efficiency, an ingenious innovation that was first brought to the country at an affordable price by Hyundai Asia Resources, Inc.

Other Hyundai models to be showcased at the motorshow are the Sonata, Hyundai's current premier luxury sedan, the Azera, an executive sedan soon to make waves in 2006 with commanding distinction, and the sporty 2006 Coupe, poised and raring for fast-paced action, both styled for imposing form and powerful engine that performs in any weather condition.

Come and find the Hyundai vehicle that best suits your lifestyle and personality at the **Drive Your Way with Hyundai Motorshow '05**. There's a perfect Hyundai vehicle just waiting for you to bring home and enjoy. Drive your way with Hyundai today. Drop by at the Glorietta Activity Center on December 5 to 7, 2005.

-ADV



DRIVE YOUR WAY WITH

HYUNDAI motorshow '05

HYUNDAI www.myhyundai.com.ph

- AUTOMOTIVE DISPLAY
- INSTANT RAFFLES
- AUTOMOTIVE SEMINARS
- LIVE BANDS
- FUN INTERACTIVE GAMES
- TECHNICAL SUPPORT Q & A AND MORE!

■ METRO / A21
SEA Games special: MRT, LRT offer free rides today from noon till closing hours

■ SIM / Q1
Auggie Cordero: From backroom sketcher to top bridal designer

■ ENTERTAINMENT / A3-1
Pinoy digital films now showing all over the world

Bishop explains why gays cannot be priests or nuns

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

DAGUPAN CITY—GAY men cannot become priests; neither can they go the other way and become nuns, this

BISHOP/ A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Ex-Unicef exec crusades for preschool Pinoy kids

By Blanche S. Rivera

SIMPLY PUT, HE SAW A GRANDCHILD IN every Filipino child.

And after serving as the representative of the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) in Manila for seven years, Terrel Hill is proudly maintaining a long-distance relationship

EX-UNICEF/ A8

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
Sunday, November 27, 2005 ★★ 18 sections / Vol. 19 / No. 352 P18
website: www.inq7.net

Let the SEA Games begin

11-country sportsfest goes full blast with opening rites today

By Roy Luarca

THE FILIPINO ATHletes' spirit is upbeat as they try to spur their quest for overall supremacy in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games which formally begin today at the Rizal Park.

A silver medal finish in water polo and creditable performances in men's and women's football have given the 743- strong Philippine delegation the momentum even before the Games are declared open by President Macapagal-Arroyo at 5:30 p.m.

There were no medals won yesterday, but 14 gold medals will be at stake today in the 11-nation biennial meet which will run up to Dec. 5 in Metro Manila and satellite venues.

To be contested in medal-rich athletics at the Rizal Memorial Stadium are the women's long jump, which is considered to be a "sure" win for the Philippines, pole vault and high jump.

Defending champion Lerma Bulauitan-Gabito and compatriot Marestella Torres, who holds the national record of 6.63 meters she set in the Asian track championship in Incheon, Korea in September, are picked to clash for the long jump gold. Gabito, who competed in last year's Olympics in Athens, once cleared 6.56 m in the event where there are no other noteworthy competitors in sight.

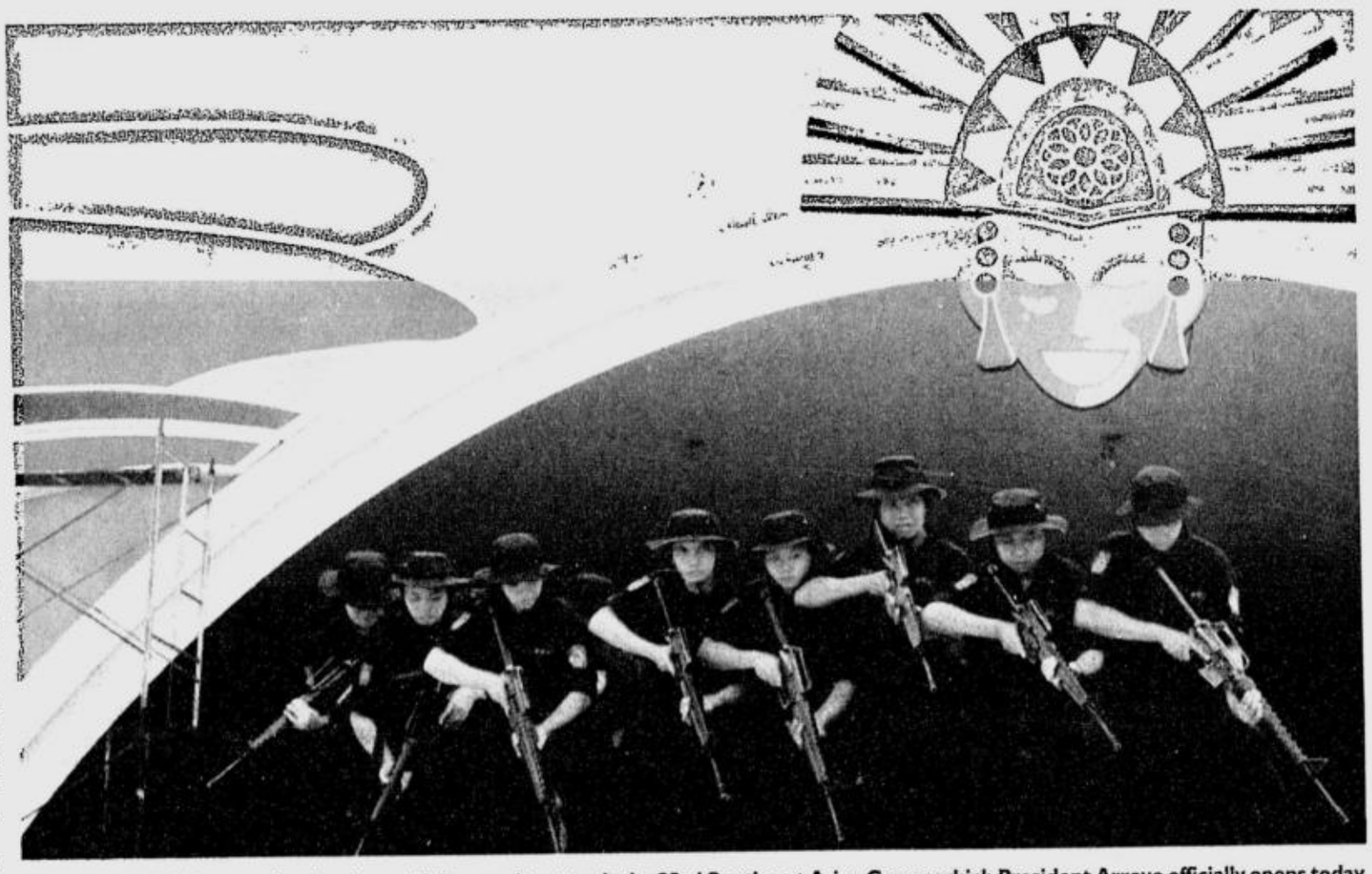
Aquatics, which includes swimming, diving and water polo, resumes at Trace College in Los Baños, Laguna, with the finals in the women's 3-meter synchronized springboard, men's 10-meter synchronized platform and men's 1-meter springboard.

Gold medals in the 15-ball rotation and team snooker are to be disputed in billiards over at the Makati Coliseum. The Filipinos are favorites in the rotation while Thailand is favored in snooker.

Over in Cebu, which will also hold its own opening ceremony to be led by Tourism Secretary Ace Durano, karate will stake four golds in men's and women's team kumite and men's and women's individual kata at the Mandaue Coliseum.

Also at stake are gold medals in the Standard and Latin American events of dancesport, which will be staged at Waterfront Hotel.

LET THE GAMES/ A8



FUN AND GAMES are serious business. Tight security attends the 23rd Southeast Asian Games which President Arroyo officially opens today at the Quirino Grandstand. On the eve of the SEAG, PNP SWAT units go through rigorous drills to secure the premises. REM ZAMORA

RAISE HIGH THE PHILIPPINES' COLORS. Olive Adrinao leads the 743-strong Filipino delegation during the flag-raising ceremonies for the 11 participating countries at the Rizal Park on Saturday. Fourteen gold medals are at stake today. REM ZAMORA

Garcillano's 'tell all' to implicate opposition

By Fe Zamora
and Norman Bordadora

IF AND WHEN VIRGILIO GARcillano comes out in public, he will have a polished script that may open a can of worms, a lawmaker and a public relations practitioner involved in the 2004 elections said yesterday.

It will be a "tell-all confession" that will, among other things, allege that two senatorial candidates met with Garcillano before the May 2004 elections to discuss cheating, said the PR man who had worked for one of the candidates.

The elusive former election commissioner disappeared from public view about five months ago, after he, or a man sounding like him, was caught on tape supposedly discussing with President Macapagal-Arroyo how to rig the results of the presidential vote.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, the PR man claimed that Garcillano met with the two senatorial candidates on separate occasions between March and May 2004 to plan "special operations," a euphemism for cheating.

The source said the meeting was brokered by a civil society personality who also set the cost of the "special operations" at P35 million for the first candidate and P55 million for the second candidate.

The source spoke with the INQUIRER several times over a period of weeks from October up to as late as yesterday.

The source identified the two senatorial candidates—who eventually won—and the alleged broker by name.

"A candidate who is running to win must deal with everybody. Everybody is an ally," the source said.

A prominent political consultant, Pastor "Boy" Saycon, yesterday said he "made representations" with Garcillano in behalf of vice presidential candidate Loren Legarda before the May 2004 elections, but the meeting never pushed through.

"We (he and Garcillano) know each other. But nothing happened because the proposed meetings never took place," Saycon said in a telephone interview.

Asked about Garcillano's supposed meetings with two senatorial candidates, Saycon said: "I've heard of such a meeting but there was no way of confirming it. At that time, everybody was bragging about having talked to this person and to that person, but this was all talk."

Saycon's name has cropped up as one of the links between Garcillano and several candidates who used Garcillano's alleged "cheating" network in Mindanao last year.

Saycon, secretary general of the civil society group Council of Philippine Affairs (Copa), barely eluded arrest Friday on charges

GARCILLANO'S/ A6

Man who got tribute no one ever did at Customs

By Jun A. Cinco

THE SINGERS WERE WORLD CLASS and the songs would make you cry, but the concert was not so much about music as it was about the man.

Aaron Capeding Redubla—a lawyer, a former official at a graft-ridden government agency and a former New People's Army rebel—was finally getting his due.

Except that he wasn't around.

Aaron had died 23 days before his 53rd birthday after a six-month fight with cancer.

No one who had ever worked at the Bureau of Customs, where Aaron spent 15 years, ever received the tribute he got that night.

On the stage were BOC officer-in-charge Alexander Arevalo and six former commissioners: Guillermo Parayno Jr., Salvador Mison, Nelson Tan, Renato Ampil, Antonio Bernardo and Alberto Lina.

Not even the centennial celebration of the bureau in 2002 brought so many former customs chiefs together, the emcee noted.

In the VIP section were Supreme Court Justice Dante Tinga and Quang Anh Le, a senior officer of the Bureau of Economic Integration, Asean Secretariat, who flew in from Indonesia just to attend the event.

And four of the "Hyatt 10" rebels—Juan Santos, Cesar Purisima, Teresita Deles and Dinky Soliman—were also there.

"[For] a wonderful life that personified the true meaning of dignity in public service ... [for] integrity and dedication to duty we wish to keep alive forever," the citation read.

The words had an outlandish ring applied to someone associated with an agency vilified as among the most corrupt in the country.

Applause reverberated through the hall when the citation was presented to Aaron's family that Oct. 15 night in the Sylvia P. Lina Theater at De La Salle-Ayala Alabang.

The concert was dubbed "Skyline Pigeon" after the Elton John song about a bird yearning to be free, which Aaron would sing in jail as a political detainee during Ferdinand Marcos' rule.

As if to emphasize the honoree's eerie absence, the Manila Symphony Orchestra opened the concert with a medley from the "Phantom of the Opera."

Between speeches, the Madrigal Singers gave breathtaking *a capella* renditions of songs ranging from "Heal the World" to "Wind Beneath My Wings."

Born to Teofilo Redubla of Burauen, Leyte, and Trinidad Capeding of Calbayog, Aaron was the eldest of three children.

His father, a retired judge, remembers a humble boy who would not ride to school in the family's government-issued jeep because the other children were travelling on foot.

Aaron was a student at Silliman University when he fled to the mountains of Samar after Marcos

MAN/ A8

REDUBLA: No politics, no compromises.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2005

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

Text us your feedback: Inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern Luzon will have cloudy skies with rainshowers becoming frequent over Bicol region. Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of Luzon will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers.

COMPILED BY JAMIE ALARCON, PDI RESEARCH/11/27/05 SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

JDV: Budget won't be passed on time

By Philip C. Tubeza

CONGRESS WILL NOT BE ABLE TO PASS THE 2006 national budget before the end of the year, Speaker Jose de Venecia said yesterday.

De Venecia and Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr., House appropriations committee chair, said the government will have to operate under a reenacted 2005 national budget "at least" in the first months of 2006.

They blamed the impeachment proceedings against President Macapagal-Arroyo for delaying the deliberations on the proposed P1.056-trillion 2006 General Appropriations Act since the House "had to tackle three impeachment complaints" filed against her from July to September.

"We have exerted our utmost efforts to deliberate on the proposed budget under extremely difficult circumstances," De Venecia and Andaya said in a joint statement.

They issued the statement even as Malacañang pressed Congress to pass the 2006 General Appropriations Act before the end of the year.

"The national budget is a prime instrument for political stability and economic growth, and Congress must try its level best to pass it on time. Our budget proposal reflects the wherewithal needed to sustain our economic goals and meet the pro-poor agenda of the President," said Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye in a statement.

"The Filipino people need this budget and Congress must not hedge in its collective responsibility to deliver it."

Andaya said that another reason for the delay was the House's decision to "democratize" the appropriations committee by enlarging its membership to 180 lawmakers, all wanting to query administration officials during budget hearings.

"This is not an excuse and we're not looking for an alibi. But this has also been the complaint of those who came before us: The budget schedule as mandated by the Constitution cramps Congress. When two chambers are given just 150 days to write the budget, then there will always be a mad dash to finish it," Andaya said.

"If the budget is submitted, say, in April, there would be no cramming. The representatives of taxpayers would be able to look into every nook and cranny of the budget," he added.

Andaya agreed with Senate President Franklin Drilon's observation that senators may no longer have the time to pass the appropriation bill even if the House finished its budget deliberations in mid-December.

"If the House will pass the budget middle of next month, then it will indeed be impossible for senators to look into our version before the year ends," Andaya said.

He said he was "resigned to the fact" that the national government will have to operate under the 2005 budget in January.

Under the Constitution, if a new fiscal year rolls in without Congress passing a new budget, the government automatically operates under the old budget, which is then called a "reenacted budget."

Andaya said reenacted budgets have become "more of a rule than an exception" because the budget process, as defined in the Constitution, begins when the President submits a proposed budget within 30 days of the State of the Nation Address in late July.

"Of the 18 fiscal years since 1988, only six General Appropriations Acts were signed before Dec. 31 of the previous year. In fact, one GAA, for 1991, was signed halfway into that year, in June," he said.

"The sky will not fall if we don't have a new budget by Jan. 1. Government will continue to function. There is no Cinderella deadline in budget-making where everything will fall apart if no budget is made before the clock strikes 12 on the night of Dec. 31," he added.

Under the Constitution, any appropriation bill should originate in the House of Representatives before being approved by the Senate.

The Senate has already convened as a Committee of the Whole to deliberate the 2006 national budget while awaiting the House version.

Next year's budget is 14.7 percent or P134.7 billion larger than the 2005 budget. Roughly one-third, or P340 billion, will go to interest payments for the country's debts.

The five agencies with the biggest budget allocations are the Department of Education (P119.1 billion), Department of Public Works and Highways (P62.3 billion), Department of National Defense (P51.6 billion), Department of the Interior and Local Government (P45.6 billion); and Department of Agriculture (P15.6 billion). *With Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

Human rights, corruption, terror on Davide's mind

By Norman Bordadora

IN WHAT COULD BE HIS SWAN SONG IN front of legal luminaries from all over Southeast Asia, Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. expressed concern over the continued incidence of human rights violations, deaths due to terrorism and the fall of leaders due to corruption and intrigue in the region.

Davide, who is due to retire on Dec. 19, told the Asean Law Association (ALA) that there was an urgent need for them to apply their legal expertise in addressing these problems. The group is made up of jurists, prosecutors, law school deans and lawyers from member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

"We dwell in times of perplexity. We cannot help but witness the recurring incidence of human rights violations, deaths due to terrorism, and the fall of governments and their leaders because of corruption and intrigue," Davide said during the opening of the ALA conference at the Shangri-La Hotel in Makati City on Friday.

"We must therefore discern between genuine success and cosmetics, and steer clear of all vanity that dulls the genius and weakens the energy of the people of Asia. But I believe that in our problems lie the most serious challenges; in their resolution lie the greatest opportunities," Davide said.

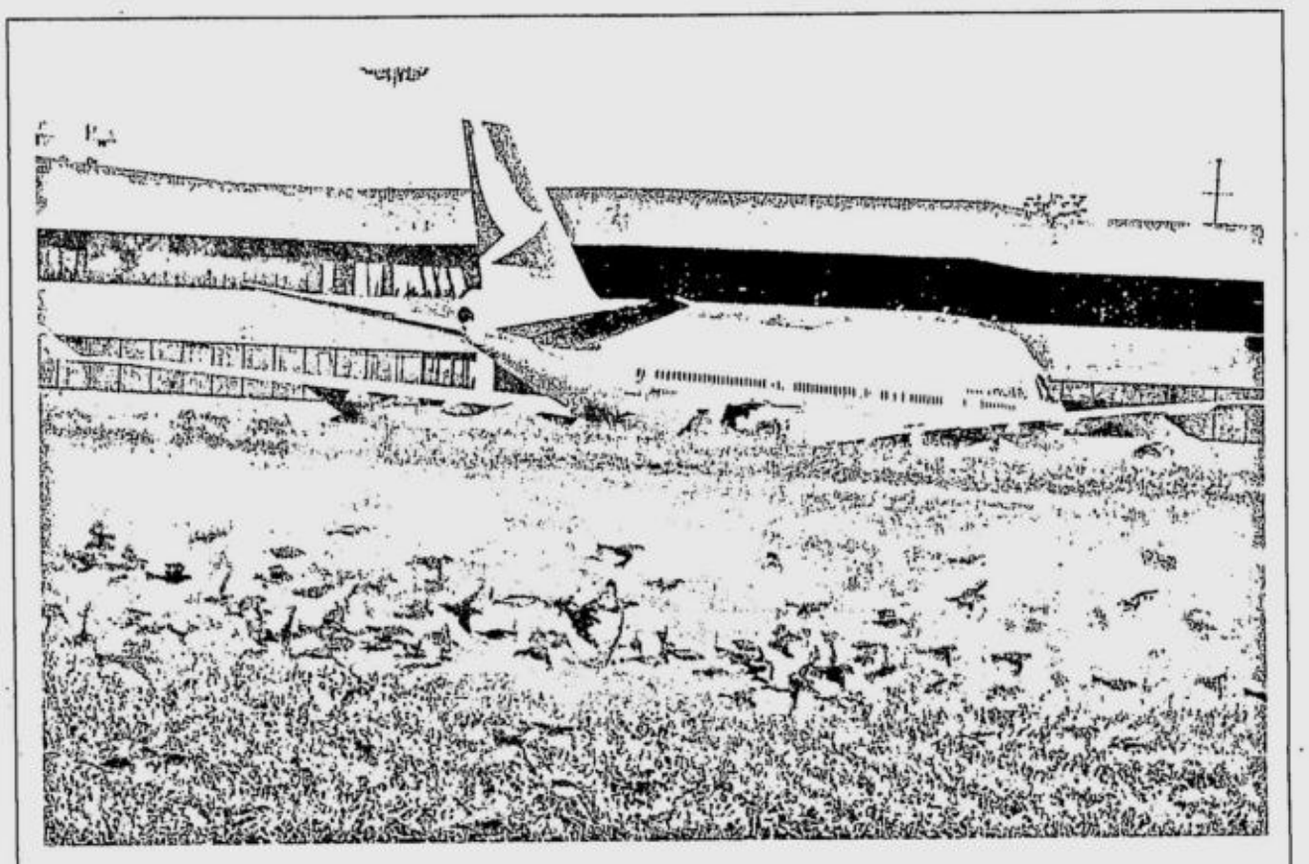
While Davide did not single out any particular country, the concerns he raised reflected some of the problems besetting the Philippines, such as questions concerning President Macapagal-Arroyo's legitimacy in the wake of electoral fraud and corruption charges.

Also, leftist militants have been accusing the military of killing non-combatants from among the ranks of activists and human rights workers. The government, on the other hand, has accused the Communist Party of the Philippines and Islamic militants of terrorist activity.

"We therefore convene to define the issues that strike public conscience, to meet these challenges, and rejoice in the resiliency of the Asian soul and the triumph of the human spirit," Davide said.

Davide also said that the ALA "must take into account the global phenomena where the fiction of national boundaries must at times genuflect to the free flow of people and the ideas they embrace."

ALA organizers said among the issues to be tackled in the conference's workshops were legal ethics and legal education systems, measures to curb money-laundering and other instances of fraud, constitutional law, international arbitration and appellate remedies and terrorism.



FLIGHT HAZARDS

Security personnel at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport may be alert to bombs and terrorists, but who's watching out for the birds which, even if they're free of the avian flu virus, pose a serious threat to aviation? A few of the other threats to aviation espied on the airport tarmac yesterday were a cat on a carefree stroll and a cardboard box dancing in the wind. ROGER MARGALLO

Pimentel: Senators now willing to Cha-cha

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

AFTER EARLIER VOWING TO SHOOT down proposals to amend the Constitution, senators are now amenable to Charter change through a constituent assembly to save on expenses, Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said yesterday.

"While majority of the senators have initially favored the creation of a constitutional convention, many of them realize that it may be practical to do it by constituent assembly," Pimentel said.

Pimentel's statement revealed a major shift in the position of the senators who were previously overwhelmingly against Cha-cha and doing it with the Senate and the House sitting as a constituent assembly.

Sen. Richard Gordon, chair of the Senate committee on constitutional amendments, has also expressed preference for a constituent assembly although he favors piecemeal amendments and not a revision or total overhaul of the Charter.

"What is important is that if we amend the Constitution by constituent assembly, it will be faster and economical. The only problem is that Congress has a low level of public trust," Pimentel said.

Pimentel, a leading proponent of federalism, said that while a Con-con would be the ideal mode for amending the charter and shifting to a parliamentary-federal form of government, the state does not have the money needed to pay for the election of the delegates, their salaries and allowances and those of their staff, the maintenance and operation of their offices, and the venue of their plenary sessions and committee hearings.

The cost of mounting a Con-con, to be composed of more than 200 delegates, is estimated at billions of pesos.

Pimentel also said that members of Congress, most of whom are seasoned politicians, were already familiar with the issues and amendments being proposed, especially on changing the form of government.

He said a constituent assembly was a lot cheaper than a Con-con because there would be no need to give additional pay to the senators and congressmen who would constitute the assembly. They also have their existing staff and offices, and could use the Batasan complex for their sessions.

Bolante said to be in Capiz

ROXAS CITY—CONTROVERSIAL FORMER Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn "Jocjoc" Bolante is in Capiz, according to a former councilor there.

The source, who asked not to be named, said he talked to Bolante early last week at the latter's fishpond in Barangay Aranquel, President Roxas town, about 45 km from this city.

They discussed possible projects Bolante could implement for his townmates even if he was no longer in government, the source said.

Former Capiz Gov. Jose Borda, Lakas-CMD provincial chair, denied reports Bolante was in President Roxas, saying this was speculation because the former undersecretary owned property in the municipality.

Bolante, a native of Dao town in Capiz, owns some 126 hectares of fishponds in Barangay Aranquel. He bought the fishponds from the Elizalde family before he was appointed agriculture undersecretary.

According to the former councilor, the fishponds were being managed by Bolante's children under Solid Life Holding Corp.

The same source said no one could go near the fishponds without permission from the guards.

Another controversial person in the alleged fertilizer scam hounding Bolante, Senate witness Jose Barredo Jr., is from Barangay Hanglid, President Roxas.

Barredo had alleged in his affidavit to the Senate that he was tasked to arrange the kickbacks for congressmen from Department of Agriculture projects in Western Visayas. *Felipe Celino, PDI Visayas Bureau*

3 suspected Reds killed, 2 hurt in new clash

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

TACLOBAN — ARMY TROOPS KILLED AT least three suspected Communist rebels and captured two others following a clash that also wounded a soldier, the military said yesterday.

Troops from the Army's 43rd Infantry Battalion were on patrol in Palo, Leyte, late Thursday when they encountered about 60 New People's Army guerrillas.

Soldiers killed at least three rebels and captured two guerrillas as the rebels withdrew, said Capt. Cromwell Danganan, the local Army spokesperson.

The soldiers recovered an M-16 rifle, ammunition and documents, he said.

The encounter came three days after the military claimed that 10 guerrillas were killed in a gun battle also in Palo.

Left-wing groups and local officials disputed the military's claim, saying those killed were ordinary farmers and included a seven-month pregnant woman.

On Nov. 23, a survivor of the Palo killings told the Citizens Congress on Truth and Accountability that soldiers from the Army's 19th Infantry Battalion lobbed grenades and fired at them although they had shouted that they were unarmed farmers.

Richard Margallo, 30, chair of the San Agustin Farmer Beneficiaries Multipurpose Cooperative, said one of those killed was Alma Bartoline, who was seven months pregnant.

"That was not in the report," Lt. Gen. Samuel Bagasin, the Armed Forces deputy chief of staff, said in a news conference when asked if the claim was true.

He insisted the Palo killings were a "legitimate operation" against communist rebels.

Nonetheless, he said, higher headquarters had ordered the division commander to verify if the casualties had included a pregnant woman.

"We're waiting for his report," Bagasin said.

The six others killed by government troops were identified as Bernabe Borra Jr., Eufemia Barbosa-Borra, Roel Obijas, Perlito Borra, Gerry Almerino and Eric Nugal. More than 10 others were wounded.

Cause-oriented groups have condemned what they called the "massacre" of the farmers, which came a day after the New People's Army killed nine soldiers and wounded 20 others in a landmine ambush in Calinog, Iloilo. *With AP*

Saycon decries his arrest just before weekend

A WARRANT OF ARREST WAS SERVED FRIday night on Council of Philippine Affairs chair Pastor "Boy" Saycon in connection with a libel case filed against him by former Public Estates Authority (PEA) chair Ernest Villareal.

Eight members of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) served the arrest warrant, issued by Branch 132 Judge Rommel Baybay on Nov. 14, on Saycon at his residence in Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City, at 6:30 p.m.

Yesterday, Saycon voluntarily surrendered and posted bail at the Makati City Regional Trial Court. He posted a P10,000-bond with the Office of the Clerk of Court and was allowed temporary liberty by Judge Selma Alaras of Branch 62.

Saycon appeared calm and composed in court yesterday morning, but admitted he was bothered by the incident since the warrant was served when the courts were closed for the weekend.

His lawyer Leonard de Vera claimed that it was a deliberate effort on the part of the people behind the "harassment" to serve the arrest warrant on Friday night so that Saycon would have to spend three days in jail.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has proclaimed Monday a non-working holiday in lieu of Wednesday, Nov. 30 (Bonifacio Day), which is a working day nationwide.

"What is bothering here is that the warrant was served... without giving us a notice that findings had been rendered by the judge already," Saycon said.

"This, to us, is a pure case of harassment. There seems to be too much politics behind the case... we know that Mr. Villareal is close to the powers that be," De Vera said yesterday.

The libel case filed by Villareal stemmed from Saycon's complaint before the Ombudsman alleging that Villareal and other PEA officials had overpriced a 2.3-km portion of the 5.1-km President Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard, an asphalt road that runs parallel to Roxas Boulevard.

It was former PEA director Sulficio Tagud Jr. Tagud who blew the whistle on the alleged road scam in 2002.

Villareal filed a P10-million libel suit against Saycon in 2003 for "falsely" accusing him of receiving P450 million from the construction company that built the boulevard.

However, De Vera reiterated yesterday that the libel suit was filed before the Makati City Prosecutor's Office even in the absence of evidence proving that Saycon uttered defamatory statements against Villareal. ***Jocelyn R. Uy***

'Punish Larrañaga but not with death'

By Philip C. Tubeza

CONVICTED SPANISH-FILIPINO rapist Francisco Juan "Paco" Larrañaga must be punished, but not with the death penalty, Speaker Jose de Venecia said yesterday.

De Venecia said he was against the death penalty and favored "giving the maximum punishment short of the death penalty" to Larrañaga, who was convicted along with six other scions of affluent families in the brutal rape and murder of two sisters in Cebu City in 1997.

"Consistent with the position of the Catholic Church and the European Union, I am against the death penalty, but we want the Spanish-Filipino rapist punished in the name of justice," De Venecia said in a statement.

He said that when Congress approved the death penalty for heinous crimes, the lawmakers intended capital punishment "only for a short period and as a deterrent."

DE VENECIA

De Venecia issued the clarification after the Spanish newspaper El Pais reported in its website on Nov. 21 that he had pledged "measures of grace" for Larrañaga.

The same newspaper said President Macapagal-Arroyo had given assurances to a Spanish delegation led by Defense Minister Jose Bono last week that the death penalty would not be carried out during her term.

Larrañaga is the son of former Basque pelotari Manuel Larrañaga (not Manuel Francisco Larrañaga as reported yesterday) and Filipino Margarita Gonzalez and is a member of the influential Osmeña clan of Cebu. He and the others were convicted and sentenced to death for the rape and murder of the sisters Jacqueline, 23, and Marie Joy Chiong, 20, in Cebu City.

Defense lawyers charged that the trial was marred by irregularities but the Supreme Court eventually upheld the conviction and upgraded their original sentence of life imprisonment to death by lethal injection.

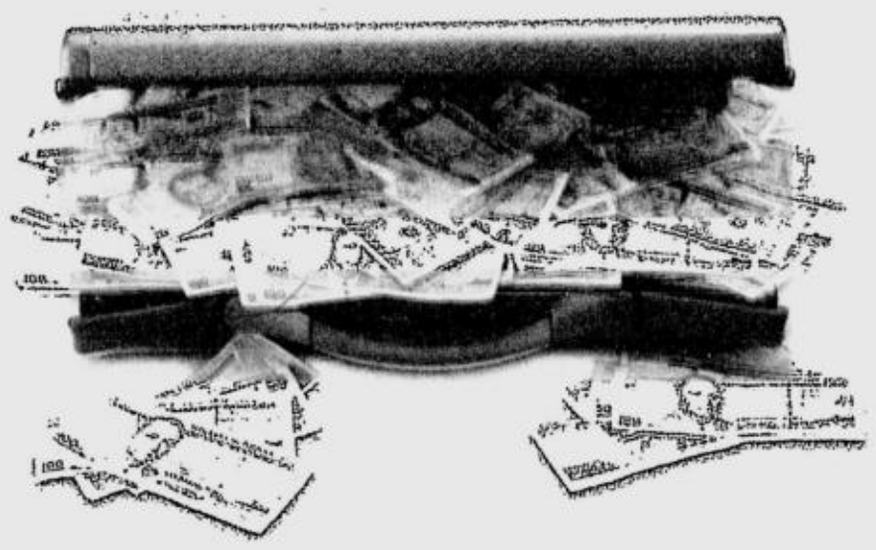
Spain and other European governments and institutions, which are averse to the death penalty, have been pressuring the Philippine government to pardon Larrañaga. Before Bono's visit, Spanish parliamentarians had come to Manila to appeal for clemency.

Besides Larrañaga, the others convicted were Josman Aznar, Rowen Adlawan, Alberto Cano, Ariel Balansag and the brothers James Anthony and James Andrew Uy. James Andrew, a minor at the time of the crime, was sentenced to life in prison.

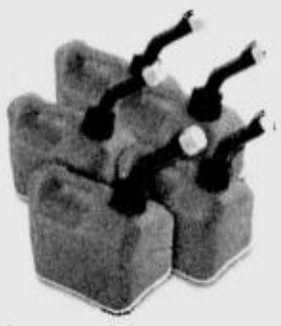
The Chiong sisters were abducted in the evening of July 16, 1997, while waiting for their father to pick them up at the Ayala Center Cebu. Mary Joy's body was found two days later in a secluded ravine in Carcar town, south of Cebu City, but Jacqueline's body was never found.

The seven convicts appealed to the Supreme Court anew to reopen the case for oral arguments by the defense or refer the case to the Court of Appeals, but the high court, in a ruling last July, denied separate motions for reconsideration filed by five of the seven convicts.

CAN YOUR REWARDS POINTS MAKE YOU A MILLIONAIRE?



Only HSBC's rewards points can. Just 100 points gives you a chance to win One Million Pesos.



FREE gas for one whole year
(up to P60,000)
Be one of the 20 winners

Get a chance to win P1 million in cash credit, a whole year's supply of free gas or lifetime annual fee waivers. Here's how:

1. Use your points. Every 100 you redeem gets you 1 Raffle entry.
2. Charge your holiday purchases to your HSBC credit card. Every P500 you charge gets you 1 Raffle entry.
3. If you don't have an HSBC credit card yet, apply now and get 10 Raffle entries upon activation.

The more Raffle entries, the better your chances of winning. For more information:

- Text "HSBC REWARDS" to 2311 for Globe and Sun Cellular or to 350 for Smart.
- Call 878-7878 or see tent cards and flyers available at any HSBC branch

Waived annual fee for life
Be one of the 1,000 winners

HSBC REWARDS

Celebrating 130 Taon sa Pilipinas

HSBC
The world's local bank

Issued by The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited

SMS your way to a Million Pesos! Convert your HSBC Bonus Points to raffle entries via text*

1. How can I learn more about HSBC's One Million Peso Rewards Raffle Promo?
Text "HSBC REWARDS"

2. How do I find out how many Bonus Points I have?
Text "HSBC <your 16-digit HSBC card number>"
Example: HSBC 4028920012345678

3. How do I convert my Bonus Points into Raffle entries?
Text "HSBC <your 16-digit HSBC card number <number of Points>"
Redemption should be in multiples of 100 (100 points = 1 entry)
Example: To redeem 500 Bonus Points, text:
HSBC 4028920012345678 500

4. How do I find out how many raffle entries I have?
Text "HSBC ENTRIES <your 16-digit HSBC card number>"
Example: HSBC ENTRIES 4028920012345678

Send your text messages to:
2311 (Globe and Sun Celllular)
350 (Smart, Talk & Text and Addict Mobile)
*You will be charged P2.50 per text.

Remember, you only have until Jan. 31, 2006 to get a chance to become a millionaire. Start converting your Bonus Points into Raffle entries or keep using your HSBC credit card!

Per DTI-NCR No 2990 Series of 2005

NATIONAL FORUM ON HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

29 November - 1 December 2005

Traders Hotel, Roxas Boulevard
Manila, Philippines

Theme: "Strengthening Partnerships in Health and Environment"

Messages:

SENATOR COMPAÑERA PIA S. CAYETANO

On behalf of the Senate Committees on Health and Demography and Environment and Natural Resources which I both chair, I wholeheartedly welcome the establishment of the National Environmental Health Action Plan (NEHAP) by the Department of Health, in line with the Health and Environment Linkages Initiative of the World Health Organization and the Untied Nations Environment Program.

An action plan on environmental health is a proposal whose time should have long come considering that environmental health has been declining steadily and which constantly faces high threat from infectious diseases and emerging health problems due to environmental and work-related factors.

Environment and human health are intimately connected. It is certainly high time that we act now about the quality of life that we should derive from caring for Mother Earth which nurtures us in its womb.

The DOH action plan, part of the global effort to reduce the environmental threats to human health, puts these twin issues at the center of the national agenda. I support such initiative and trust that it will effectively serve as a framework to define priority actions on environment and health issues, assess the country's steps in realizing these efforts and involve other stakeholders in a dynamic process.

I congratulate the people behind this worthy program! May God bless our country and our people!

Pia S. Cayetano
SENATOR COMPAÑERA PIA S. CAYETANO

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
San Lazaro Compound, Sta Cruz, Manila

"Human beings are the center of concerns for sustainable development. They are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature" (Principle 1 of the Rio Declaration; UN, 1993)

Greetings!

On behalf of the organizers of the 1st National Environmental Health Action Plan (NEHAP Forum, it is a great pleasure for me to extend my warmest felicitations to the contributors and participants in this undertaking.

Good health is both an end and a means of sustainable development. For poor countries, health is an essential asset in the pursuit of economic development, but their environment often threatens their health. Improving environmental conditions that affect health is therefore basic to sustainable development and health. The World Health Organization (WHO, 2002) has estimated that environmental health hazards account for 21% of the overall burden of disease worldwide. The environmental determination of health is the highest for children under 5 years. One in five children in the poorest regions of the world will not live to see their fifth birthday primarily because of environmental-related diseases. Protecting environmental health requires that we better understand the relationship between environmental conditions and health outcomes.

Despite the obvious inter-relationship between health and environment, many governments, employers and workers continue to respond to the causes and consequences of both health and environment in very desperate and isolated manner. The goal of this undertaking is to draw attention to the significant advantages that may arise from responding to the health and environmental issues in a more integrated and strategic manner. This is true not only for industrialized countries, which have made significant progress regarding the integration of health and environment, but as well as in transition economies and developing countries, which have a much broader and overwhelming challenge yet before them. Coordination between the health, environmental and other sectors broadens the scope of information available, to identify and better implement prevention strategies.

Our objective is to find ways to improve the linkage between health and environment in order to ensure accelerated and sustainable progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and produce important outcomes beyond health improvements through a combination of multi-sectoral approaches. Better perception and understanding of broad inter-relationships between health and the environment will hopefully also lead to more extensive and effective exchanges of experience and information between health and environment with a view of enhancing our capacity to respond to challenges.

The functions, roles and responsibilities of government agencies at all levels should be integrated and streamlined to ensure optimal resource management. Such positive change, however, will require collaborative, participatory and flexible approach to involve the local government units, community groups and other non-government agencies which will serve as a vital link and partner to effect and sustain advocacy, inputs to regulatory and decision-making to policy makers.

This is no easy task. We call on agencies of government concerned with health and the environment, non-government organizations, the private sector, communities to work together to develop, implement, monitor and report, coordinate and consolidate all existing efforts and participation of all stakeholders. There is much to be gained from sharing best practices and sharing data, as well as by better collaboration among national and local government units. Together, all of us can join forces to make systematic use of linking health and environmental initiatives to protect the health and well-being of the Filipino people and the future generations to come.

Congratulations and Mabuhay!!

FRANCISCO T. DUQUE III, MD, MSc
Secretary

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Visayas Avenue, Quezon City

Greetings! I am truly grateful to the Department of Health for leading the National Forum on Health and the Environment. This is a prized opportunity for us people in the environmental management to share our programs on the environment, in relation to human health protection, with people like you, whose work intrinsically revolves around taking care of the health of the Filipino people. The World Health Organization stated that "environmental health refers to aspects of human health, including quality of life, that are determined by physical, chemical, biological, social and psychosocial factors in the environment". It also refers to the theory and practice of assessing, controlling and preventing those factors in the environment that can potentially adversely affect the health of the present and future generations.

According to most studies in other countries, poor and undeveloped countries are most likely to be exposed to the worst air quality, the most noise, the worst water conditions and to hazardous wastes and other toxins. These countries are also exposed to the lower-quality environments at home, in school, on the job and in the neighborhood.

Even more disturbing, a study also revealed that the environmental risk exposure is likely to be even more hazardous in developing countries, which tend to have higher housing densities and poorer quality housing than the developed countries like the United States, Japan and others.

The most obvious effect environmental concerns and problems has to human health is the presence of environmental pollutants in our environment — in our air, water, and land resources. These pollutants can be toxic and hazardous chemicals, released in the atmosphere or thrown directly in our water bodies. These are chemicals induced by the different activities that we do everyday, or, caused by industries that surround us.

Pollution can affect the very survival of our planet as its effects are felt not only by humans, but by all life-supporting systems on Earth.

A classic example of the long term and indirect effect of chemical pollution is best illustrated with the Minamata Case in Japan. When people near the Minamata Bay in Japan began suffering from a mysterious disease, the culprit was traced to mercury contamination. A chemical factory in the area was releasing waste products high in mercury content directly into the Minamata Bay. The mercury that was released accumulated in the body of the shellfish and other marine organisms, which were then eaten by the local inhabitants in the area.

Over the years, hundreds of people died and many were paralyzed for life because of mercury intoxication. The other effects included impairment of vision, hearing and neurological problems. Pre-natal poisoning of fetuses was also observed, even when mothers did not show any visible symptoms caused by mercury poisoning.

The Minamata incident has become the turning point through which the world recognized how serious problem hazardous wastes is not just to the environment, but most especially, to humans. This environmental disaster happened in the 70s, but still, to date, we continue to hear tragedies like the Minamata.

Today, we are hearing a lot of diseases affecting not only our wildlife, but us even – including the bird flu virus that is affecting the Asian Region.

There are technologies being developed which boast of pollution-free features, but even the best technology ever discovered has not yet been developed to the extent of completely doing away with the evil of pollution and its harmful effects to human beings.

There are several ways of reducing pollutants in our environment but the most important is the vital need to educate citizens to understand their rights, as well as their responsibilities, for a pollution-free environment. This awareness will lead to a strong citizens' action against erring industries and persons, and may, in the long run, be responsible for a pollution-free environment. It will also lead to each and every citizen playing his or her role in reducing pollution.

Let us all remember that "every individual's action towards controlling pollution is like a drop in the ocean—and every drop counts" – and so, let us all do our share to make a difference in our Earth.

Mabuhay po tayong lahat!

MICHAEL T. DEFENSOR
Secretary

Program:

Day 1 (29 November 2005, Tuesday)

8:30 am – 9:30 am Registration
Opening of Exhibit
OPENING CEREMONIES
Invocation
National Anthem
Welcome Remarks – **Usec. Ethelyn P. Nieto**
WHO - Dr. Hisashi Ogawa
ADB - Mr. David Green

9:30 am – 10:00 am break (Hidden Paradise Video Presentation)

10:00 am – 11:45 am **WATER**
Technical Updates on Water
– **Mr. Terrence Thompson** (WHO)
EHDS Updates and Water Sector Acion Plan
– **Dr. Lope Villenas** (NWRB)
LGU Best Practice – Magdalena Water System
by Mr. Flaviano del Valle (Office of the Mayor, Magdalena, Laguna)
Open Forum
Moderator: Engr. Joselito M. De Dios

11:45 am – 12:30 pm HELI, MDG, MTPDP & NOH
– **Dr. Yolanda E. Oliveros/**
Dr. Desiree M. Narvaez

12:30 pm – 1:30 pm lunch break

1:30 pm – 2:00 pm Smokey Mountain Presentation
"Anak ng Inang Daigdig"

2:00 pm – 3:00pm Messages:
DENR - **Sec. Michael T. Defensor**
DOH - **Sec. Francisco T. Duque III**
Keynote Speech:
Senator Compañera Pia S. Cayetano

3:00pm – 3:30 pm break

3:30 pm – 5:15 pm **FOOD SAFETY**
Technical Updates
– Ms. Ofelia Alba (BFAD-DOH)
EHDS Updates and Food Sector Action Plan
–Dr. Ma.Elizabeth Callanta (NMIS-DA)
LGU Best Practice
– Dr. Albert Herrera (Office of the Mayor, Marikina City)
Open Forum
Moderator: Engr. Rolando I. Santiago

Day 2 (30 November 2005, Wednesday)

8:30 am – 9:45 am **TOXIC CHEMICALS AND HAZARDOUS WASTES**
Technical Updates
– Dr. Irma Makalinao (UP-NPMCC)
EHDS Updates & Toxic Chemicals & Hazardous Wastes Sector Action Plan
Engr. Geri Geronimo Sañez (EMB-DENR)
LGU Best Practice
– Dr. Juancho V. Monserate
(Office of the Mayor, Puerto Princesa City)
Open Forum
Moderator: Engr. Ana Trinidad F. Rivera

9:45 am – 10:15 am break

10:15 am – 12:00 md **HEALTH CARE WASTES**
Technical Updates
– Dr. Desiree M. Narvaez (EOHO-DOH)
Status of UNDP GEF: Best Practices to reduce Healthcare Waste and Avoid Dioxin and Mercury Release by Dir. Rebecca Peñaflel (NCHFD-DOH)
LGU Best Practice : Health Care Waste Management by Dr. Mario Y. Dideles
(Gen. Santos Doctors Hospital)
Open Forum
Moderator: Engr. Elmer G. Benedictos

12:00 md – 1:00 pm lunch break
(General Santos Doctors Hospital Video)

1:00 pm – 2:45 pm **SOLID WASTES**
Technical Updates – Dr. Victor Luis (ECO Gov)
EHDS Updates and Solid Wastes Sector Action Plan – Atty. Zoilo L. Andin (NSWMC-DENR)
LGU Best Practice: Integrated Solid Mangement Program by Engr. Alejo Lamsen
(Office of the Mayor, Cauayan City, Isabela)
Open Forum
Moderator: Engr. Ma. Sonabel S. Anarna

2:45 pm – 3:15 pm break
(Bahanginan: Usok Mo Langhap Ko Video)

3:15 pm – 5:00 pm **AIR POLLUTION**
Technical Updates
– Mr. Cornelius Huizenga
(Clean Air Initiative for Asian Cities - ADB)
EHDS Updates and Air Sector Action Plan
– Engr. Cesar Siador Jr. (EMB-DENR)
LGU Best Practice: Sustaining a Livable and Ecological Environment by Mr. Danilo V. Villas
(Office of the Mayor, Makati City)
Open Forum
Moderator: Engr. Rene N. Timbang

Day 3 (01 December 2005, Thursday)

8:30 am – 9:45 am **OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH**
Technical Updates
– Dr. Oscar Tinio (PCOM)
EHDS Updates and Occupational Health Sector Action Plan
– Dr. Dulce Estrella-Gust (OSHC-DOLE)
LGU Best Practice: Brgy. Captain Franco Preclaro (Banahaw, Sta. Cruz, Marinduque)
Open Forum
Moderator: Dr. Cecile G. Magturo

9:45 am – 10:15 am break

10:15 am – 12:00 md **CLIMATE CHANGE AND EMERGING DISEASES**
Climate Change & Possible Health Effects
– Fr. Dan McNamara (Manila Observatory)
Plans for Dengue and Malaria in light of Climate Change -Dr. Jaime Lagahid (IDO-DOH)
Emerging Diseases – Dr. Luningning Villa (IDO-DOH)
Avian Flu Contingency Plan
– Mayor James De Jesus (Calumpit, Bulacan)
Open Forum
Moderator: Dr. Alell P. Sudiacal

12:00 md – 1:00 pm lunch break

1:00 pm – 2:30 pm **SANITATION**
Technical Updates on Sanitation
– Ms. Lisa Kircher-Lumbao
(Local Initiatives for Affordable Wastewater Treatment - LINAW)
EHDS Updates and Sanitation Sector Action Plan – Ms. Leila H. Elvas (WSP-WB)
LGU Best Practice: ECOSAN by
Dr. Eduardo Posadas (Office of the Mayor, San Fernando City, La Union)
Moderator: Engr. Luis F. Cruz

2:30 pm – 3:00 pm break

3:00 pm – 4:00 pm **Presentation and Adoption of the Philippine NEHAP**
Signing of Pledge of Support
- Dr. Desiree M. Narvaez
Presentation of the Charter of the Regional Forum on Environmental and Health ASEAN and East Asian Countries – Framework for Cooperation - Dr. Jean-Marc Olivé (WHO)

Closing Remarks Usec. Jade Del Mundo (DOH)

3 Germans lost at sea rescued

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY – FISHERMEN YESterday rescued three Germans, including the diving instructor at a Bohol resort, in the waters off Limasawa Island, Southern Leyte, 27 hours after they were reported missing.

The Germans were identified as Holger Klopper, 40, diving instructor at Flower Beach Resort in Anda, Bohol, and two resort guests, Phillip Baumgartner, 31, and Jurgen Lindemeier, 35.

Six fishermen who happened to be in the area spotted the three men floating in the waters off Limasawa Island at about 9 a.m. on Saturday, according to Insp. Lino Dalisay, Anda police chief.

Dalisay said the fishermen who were in two pump boats pulled the foreigners out of the water and brought them back to the resort just past noon.

Dalisay said he asked the men how they were able to survive being lost at sea for over a day without food and water.

"Germans are known for being strong. We love adventure so we just considered the incident as an adventure," he quoted Klopper as saying.

Of the three, Dalisay said only Baumgartner appeared to be weak but he was not brought to a hospital. "All of them decided to just relax in the resort," he said.

Dalisay identified the six fishermen who rescued the Germans as Marcelo Dagdag, Renato Galvez, James Mipaña, Reynaldo Toco, Ruben Lisbos and Rodel Sumerao.

Dalisay said Klopper gave the fishermen some money to show his gratitude while the resort owner, Bonnie Mueller, treated them to lunch.

Dalisay said Baumgartner and Lindemeier were tourists who arrived a week ago at the beach resort located in Barangay Birgen, Anda, 101 km east of the capital Tagbilaran City.

Dalisay said the three went scuba diving at 6 a.m. on Friday about two-and-a-half km from the resort. They dove in waters about 80 feet deep.

The pump boat operator who took them to the area began to panic when the three failed to resurface a couple of hours later.

Although their oxygen tanks only had a 45-minute capacity, the pump boat operator waited until 9 a.m. before returning to the resort and reporting the three as missing.

Resort officials, in turn, went to the police to seek help.

Anda Mayor Paulino Amper said about 50 pump boats owned by local fishermen were tapped in the search for the Germans.

Lt. Col. Jefferson Omandam, spokesperson of the AFP Central Command, said the Benito Ebuen Air Base in Mactan sent four divers in a Sikorsky helicopter to help look for the foreigners after Mueller sought their assistance.

They did not find the Germans, however.

Dalisay said the Germans were able to resurface before their oxygen tanks ran out of air. But they were no longer in the original dive area after strong currents swept them toward Limasawa Island off which they were found.

More and 'improved' Pinoy seamen on tap

THE PHILIPPINES WILL CONTINue to provide the world with more and better seafarers, Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas has assured the global shipping industry.

In her speech at the opening of the 6th Lloyd's Shipping Management Asia Pacific Manning and Training Conference in Manila on Nov. 22, Sto. Tomas said the government had launched three projects to increase the numbers and the quality of the country's maritime graduates.

"[T]he Philippines will always have a supply of qualified and competent seafarers, particularly marine officers, to meet every ship owner's needs," Sto. Tomas said.

She said she had personally coordinated the strategies "that would ensure that we live up to this commitment to uphold the highest quality of education and training for our seafarers" in consonance with the International Maritime Organization's Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping Convention.

Sto. Tomas said the Department of Labor and Employment, together with the Association of Marine Officers and Seamen's Union of the Philippines, had embarked on a nationwide tri-media information campaign to promote the maritime industry and its benefits among high school students.

She said she had also issued a directive for the immediate implementation of a management level course to answer the need of the industry for management level officers. *Jerome Aning*

Correction

In the November 25 editorial on page A14–"Chicken's back"– misstated the province represented by Rep. Prospero Pichay. He is the representative of the first district of Surigao del Sur – not Surigao del Norte.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent to Lorna Kalaw Tirol, readers' advocate, e-mail address: readersadvocate@inquirer.com. ph or fax Nos. 897-47-93/94, Attn: Readers Advocate. Her phone number is 897-8808 Local 342.

The Daily Gospel

Sunday, November 27, 2005
1st Sunday of Advent

1st Reading: Isaiah 63:16-17,19; 64:2-7

Rend the heavens and come down

For you are our Father, whereas Abraham does not know us nor has Israel any knowledge of us. But you, O Yahweh, are our Father, from the beginning, you are our redeemer: this is your name.

Why have you made us stray from your ways? Why have you let our heart become hard so that we do not fear you? Re-turn for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance.

As when fire sets brushwood ablaze and causes water to boil, make the nations know your name, and your enemies tremble.

No one has ever heard or perceived, no eye has ever seen a God besides you who works for those who trust in him.

You have confounded those who acted righteously and who joyfully kept your ways in mind. You are angry with our sins, yet conceal them and we shall be saved.

All of us have become like the un-clean; all our good deeds are like polluted garments; we have all withered like leaves, blown away by our iniquities.

There is no one who calls upon your name, no one who rouses himself to lay hold of you. For you have hidden your face, you have given us up to the power of our evil acts.

And yet, Yahweh, you are our Father; we are the clay and you are our potter; we are the work of your hand.

2nd Reading: 1st Corinthians 1:3-9

Waiting for the full coming of Christ

Brothers and sisters, grace and peace from God our Father, and Christ Jesus our Lord.

I give thanks constantly to my God for you and for the grace of God given to you in Christ Jesus. For you have been fully enriched in him with words as well as with knowledge, even as the testimony concerning Christ was confirmed in you. You do not lack any spiritual gift and only await the glorious coming of Christ Jesus, our Lord. He will keep you stead-fast to the end, and you will be with-out reproach on the day of the coming of our Lord Jesus. The faithful God will not fail you after calling you to this fellowship with his Son, Christ Jesus, our Lord.

Gospel: Mark 13:33-37

Stay away for the Lord's coming

Jesus said to his disciples, "Be alert and watch, for you don't know when the time will come. When a man goes abroad and leaves his home, he puts his servants in charge, giving to each one some responsibility; and he orders the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, for you don't know when the Lord of the house will come, in the evening or at midnight, when the cock crows or before dawn. If he comes suddenly, do not let him catch you asleep.

"And what I say to you, I say to all: watch."

Commentary

Watch out! Stay awake! It is the ancient call to be attuned to the presence of God. We are doorkeepers, servants in charge and waiting on edge for the return of our Master. Evening, midnight, cock crow or dawn we could find ourselves standing before our God and called to account for our lives and actions. Our God is coming! It is Advent, and our God is always coming towards us, beckoning, bidding us to care about the household, the reign of God's peace with abiding justice in the world. We begin the year of the Lord 2006-will this year truly belong to God? Will we bear the name of the Holy One, our Father, our Redeemer so that all know that this year will serve to make holy the world?

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP PO. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: cci@claret.org; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)

BDO BANCO DE ORO

SuperLite Personal Loan

09%*

Low, low interest rate!

Yours to enjoy if you act now.
Plus, get all these other extras!

- **FREE** Family Accident Insurance up to P300,000 from GENERALI PILIPINAS
- Flexible Payment Terms – up to 36 months
- Loan Amounts as much as P300,000
- Automatic Rewards Points through BDO Credit Cards

With a rate this low, now's the time to get your wish list done.

BDO SuperLite Personal Loan – it's one of the lightest and most practical financial solutions for your personal and immediate needs. ***Go ahead and use it for almost anything!***

Apply now!
Call 631-8000 or visit any of our BDO branches today!

We find ways

BDO Personal Loan

Toll-free: 1-800-10-631-8000
www.bancodeoro.com.ph

BDO Consumer Lending Products:
BDO Credit Cards • BDO Home Loan • BDO Auto Loan

*Conditions apply. See flyers for details.
Initially available in Metro Manila, Laguna, Cavite, Bulacan, Rizal and Pampanga. Promo period: October 1, 2005 to December 31, 2005

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 6911 Series of 2005.

FVR to GMA: Keep mouth shut, keep hands clean, shun fortress

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

BEYOND the handshake, unsolicited advice on how to stay in power

WITH EX-ELECTION COMMISsioner Virgilio Garcillano poised to resurface, former President Fidel V. Ramos has a few suggestions to President Macapagal-Arroyo to avoid reviving a political crisis that nearly toppled her from office.

"These are my laws on power—keep your mouth shut; keep your hands clean; and don't build a fortress around you," Ramos told reporters yesterday during the groundbreaking ceremony of the NYK Line Maritime Academy in Laguna.

Ramos joined Ms Arroyo in attending the ceremony at the Carmelray Industrial Park.

Based on Ramos' laws on power, Ms Arroyo did everything wrong in the last five months to contain the "Hello Garci" scandal.

First, she admitted to having spoken to an election official during the canvassing in last year's elections even before the winners had been confirmed. The President had apologized for what she called a "lapse in judgment."

Second, according to Ramos, Ms Arroyo tried to muddle the issue when Malacanang came out with conflicting claims about the supposed tape of Ms Arroyo's conversations with Garcillano.

Increasing isolation

Ramos was alluding to Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye's claim that the opposition had doctored the original tape.

Third, Ms Arroyo increasingly isolated herself during the past few months, not only from her political foes but also the Church and civil society groups demanding to know the truth about what happened during the elections.

Ramos said it was about time that Garcillano came out of hiding to shed light on the scandal. He said Garcillano should have explained the issue a long time ago instead of hiding from the public.

"He knows something that everybody wants to hear about. I still believe that the truth will set you free whoever gets hit," said Ramos.

Garci calls: 'Hello, Mike'

By Michael Lim Ubac

CONTROVERSIAL FORMER Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano yesterday called the INQUIRER to confirm that he was coming out soon "to once and for all establish the truth" about alleged poll fraud in the 2004 elections.

"Hello, Mike," he told this reporter. He added that he was sending some text messages then quickly rang off.

In two text messages, he said: "[I'm coming out] to once and for all establish the truth about the matter. I hope Sens. (Panfilo) Lacson and (Aquilino) Pimentel are ready for it."

The next text message read: "The issue on the spurious tapes should end here and now.–v. garcillano."

When the INQUIRER dialed the mobile number, an aide answered.

"He's not here anymore," said the aide, who said "yes" when asked if the text messages had come from Garcillano.

Garcillano made the call a day after his spouse, Grace, contacted the INQUIRER to confirm that he was preparing to resurface, possibly this week.

"Tell them that (my husband) will tell the truth. *Tamaan na ang dapat tamaan* (Let the chips fall where they may)," said Grace, stressing that her husband was prepared to face his detractors to put an end to "lies."

During the five-minute interview, Grace lambasted the opposition for allegedly weaving lies about her husband.

"When he comes out, he will tell all. *Sana naman mabigyan ng maganda* (I hope he will be given a good press)," said Mrs. Garcillano.

It was the second time that Garcillano contacted the INQUIRER since the "Hello Garci" tape scandal broke out.

In a phone interview in early August, he admitted to having talked with Ms Arroyo and a host of other government officials, including the opposition, at the height of the canvassing of votes last year.

Garcillano said he was not "stupid" that he would destroy the electoral process of the country.

He maintained that he did not help Ms Arroyo cheat in the election and that the wiretapped conversations aired in open hearing by the joint House committee appeared spliced and tampered with.

Garcillano phoned a close friend, Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay, last Tuesday, a week after news circulated that he had returned and was preparing to go public.

"I will come out to clear my name," Pichay quoted the former poll official as saying.

GARCILLANO confirms his coming out party "soon."

Pichay said Garcillano vowed to "tell all" to put a fitting closure to the scandal which nearly brought down the Arroyo administration in July this year.

Got an original Filipino proverb? Text it and win

By Jerome Aning

HAVE YOU COMPOSED AN original Filipino proverb or sawikain? Then text it to the National Commission for Culture and the Arts and win up to P500.

NCCA executive director and Presidential Adviser on Culture Cecile Guidote Alvarez yesterday invited the public to submit entries to the Text Sawikain Poetry Writing Contest 2005 ongoing until Dec. 25.

"A synthesis of modern technology and traditional form of poetry, this contest is an effective means to revitalize and uphold the dying tradition of writing sawikain among the Filipino public, especially the young generation, through texting," Alvarez said.

Administered by the NCCA's National Committee on Literary Arts headed by INQUIRER editor Lito Zulueta, Text Sawikain entries shall be written in Filipino. It must consist of two lines with 12 syllables, expressing a complete thought.

One of the two themes of the contest would be the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, which range from halving extreme poverty to halting the spread of HIV/AIDS. The contest is also in line with the celebration of the National Poetry Week pursuant to Proclamation No. 2430 issued in 1985.

Entries must be accompanied by the complete name and address of the author. Contestants shall submit their entries through text to 0927-239-1234. They must be received not later than 12 p.m. every Friday of the contest week.

For the first four weeks of the contest (Nov. 20 to Dec. 11), the themes will be about the eight target goals of the UNMDP. The last two weeks (Dec. 18 to 25) shall tackle the rich and distinct traditions of the Filipinos during Christmas.

Last week, (Nov. 20 to 26), the theme was the first and second UNMDP goals such as "Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger" and "Achieve Universal Primary Education."

Next week, the contest's themes are the goals "Promote Gender Equality" and "Reduce Child Mortality" (Nov. 27 to Dec. 3). In the coming weeks, the topics are "Improve Women's Reproductive Health" and "Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Other Diseases" (Dec. 4 to 10); and "Ensure Environmental Sustainability" and "Develop a Global Partnership for Development" (Dec. 11 to 17).

Text entries will be judged by Prof. Victor Emmanuel D. Nadera Jr., member of the National Committee on Literary Arts and professor of the Institute of Creative Writing and Department of Filipino and Philippine Literature of the University of the Philippines, using the following criteria: originality, syllabication, rhyme and content.

Every week, three winners will be picked and will receive cash prizes (P500, P300 and P200) and NCCA-published books and readings.

Garcillano's 'tell all' to implicate opposition

From page A1

of libel filed by a Public Estates Authority official over a road project which Saycon had claimed was "overpriced." *(See related story on Page A3).*

Garcillano's wife, Grace, said the other day that her husband was prepared to "tell all" about the elections, "no matter who gets hurt."

His supposed wiretapped conversations with Ms Arroyo plunged her government into its worst political crisis, sparked rumors of a brewing coup and triggered impeachment cases which her congressional supporters immediately crushed.

Meetings on Holy Week

Like any other campaign operator with "secrets" to share, the PR man who spoke to the INQUIRER refused to be identified openly, saying it could affect his career, which is based on the confidence of politicians in him.

He said that Garcillano, a senatorial candidate and the "broker" met on three different occasions at the Hyatt Manila along Roxas Blvd., the Edsa Shangri-La in Pasig and at the Mandarin Oriental hotel in Makati.

The purported meetings took place after the Holy Week before the May 10 elections.

The meetings in Manila were held after the candidate and the "broker" held a marathon meeting at the Baguio Country Club during the Holy Week.

According to the source, the candidate specifically asked to meet Garcillano "personally" before an agreement was forged.

Another senatorial candidate also sought the "broker" to arrange a meeting with Garcillano, claimed the source.

The "broker" only set the meeting after someone close to the candidate agreed to shoulder the cost of the "special operations," which the broker pegged at P55 million, according to the PR man.

The script

The INQUIRER source has been involved in electoral campaigns since 1990s, and has established connections with other campaign operators.

In an interview with the INQUIRER before he "disappeared" in June, Garcillano admitted talking with Legarda, opposition senatorial candidate Jamby Madrigal, administration senatorial candidate Mar Roxas, and Minority Leader Francis Escudero on behalf of his father Salvador, an opposition senatorial candidate who lost in the election.

Garcillano also admitted talking to Ms Arroyo but denied conspiring with her to rig the balloting.

Cavite Rep. Gilbert Remulla said Garcillano's coming-out script would have him admit to talking with Ms Arroyo.

"The script would be as follows," Remulla said at the Kapihan sa Sulo forum. "He will admit to the tapes and invoke (his right against) illegal evidence."

"[Then] he will say that he never left the country to get the (Bureau of Immigration and the Department of Foreign Affairs) off the hook," Remulla added.

Plane from Sabah

The two government agencies had drawn fire for their supposed lack of interest in finding out Garcillano's whereabouts..

Remulla, the ousted chair of the House committee on public information and principal author of a joint report on the inquiry into the "Hello Garci" scandal, said Garcillano would then invoke his right against illegally obtained evidence since the voice tracks detailing alleged electoral fraud were obtained through illegal wiretaps.

The congressman, who had called for the serving of a House warrant of arrest on Garcillano for failing to attend hearings on the scandal, said only the House could lift the warrant.

Former Sen. Francisco Tatad, for his part, said he had a source who told him that Garcillano returned to the country from Kota Kinabalu via a South Phoenix flight on Nov. 18. Other INQUIRER informants said Garcillano used a fast boat from Kota Kinabalu to Palawan.

First Gentleman

Tatad said his source, who spoke "in the strictest confidence," also claimed that Garcillano had lunch with First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo in Zamboanga del Sur on Friday afternoon.

From late Friday evening up to the wee hours yesterday, they were at a hotel lobby in Zamboanga Sibugay, according to Tatad, quoting his source.

"They were sleepless in Sibugay," Tatad said.

While Garcillano was with Arroyo, they supposedly met with such officials as Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao Gov. Zaldy Ampatuan, as well as with Commission on Elections officials from North Cotabato, South Cotabato, Lanao del Sur and Lanao del Norte.

INQUIRER calls to Arroyo's lawyer were not answered.

'Manong Kit'

As for Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay's reported statement that Garcillano would come out in public this week, Tatad insinuated that Pichay must have known where Garcillano was all along.

"Was he in contact with Garcillano during all the time the House was looking for him? If he was, what would be his official accountability to the House for having withheld valuable information from his colleagues?" Tatad said.

Pichay lashed out at Tatad.

"I think Manong Kit was wearing his former disinformation minister hat when he made his ludicrous statement," Pichay said in a statement. "We have already told the media all we know on Garci."

Orchestrated revelations

In Baguio city, Akbayan Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales said Garcillano had returned to the country to implicate the opposition in the alleged wiretapped conversations.

Rosales, who spoke at the University of Baguio on Saturday, said Garcillano's anticipated reappearance before Congress appeared too "orchestrated."

"Why did he surface? What is he going to tell us? I believe 99 percent that he will just lie," Rosales said.

She said it was still important for the Senate to resume the inquiry into Ms Arroyo's culpability for talking to an election official during the polls. *With reports from Philip C. Tubeza, Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Dinky to Garci: Redeem yourself

By Jerry E. Esplanada

SOLIMAN knows what's really going on.

WHAT IS IMPORTANT IS FOR Virgilio Garcillano to redeem himself.

This is the message that former Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman would like to relay to the controversial former election official, who is reportedly preparing to tell all this week.

In a phone interview on Friday, Soliman said her message to Garcillano was something "primordial" in her "mind and heart."

"I sincerely hope he would tell the truth this time for the sake of the nation. My other appeal is for him to redeem himself," said Soliman, a member of the so-called Hyatt 10, a group of key government officials who resigned their posts in July and called on President Macapagal-Arroyo to do the same.

Soliman said she was on her way to Marawi City to speak before a group of Mindanao nongovernment organizations on the "current political and economic situation" in the Philippines.

She said she would brief the NGOs on "what's really going on."

Soliman dismissed speculations that Garcillano did not actually leave the country but was merely in hiding.

She said she had "no reason not to believe" the statement of Singapore officials that Garcillano arrived in the city-state on July 14 and flew out the next day.

"Are they saying the Singaporeans were telling a lie? And if that's the case, that would be a big diplomatic faux pas. Then what does that make of the [Department of Foreign Affairs]?" she said.

But as far as Soliman is concerned, "what is important now is for [Garcillano] to tell the truth and for him to redeem himself."

The INQUIRER visited Garcillano's residence at the RER Drive Subdivision in Cagayan de Oro and the family farm in Barangay Salimbalan in Baungon town, Bukidnon, and was told that he was not there.

The farm caretaker said he last saw the Garcillano couple several months ago.

Opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson had earlier claimed that Garcillano's reemergence was being stage-managed by Malacañang.

But Palace officials have denied this, saying they were "in suspense" like everyone else over what Garcillano would say.

Bishop explains why gays cannot be priests or nuns

From page A1

according to Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz.

"Just as women are not meant to become priests, men are neither intended to become sisters (nuns). This is distinction, not discrimination. This is reality; its opposite is falsity. 'Men sisters,' just as women priests are but dissonant composites—not discriminatory realities," said Cruz in a statement yesterday.

He said the observation that homosexuals were not meant for the priesthood was "neither degrading nor discriminating."

"It is a simple reality. It would be difficult for a homosexual to be pushed into a heterosexual milieu. Such is neither logical nor fair," he added.

Cruz said gays must not begrudge the Catholic Church for its position because it was not against homosexuals. He said that gender orientation would not diminish the inherent dignity of a person.

Equal

"What makes them rise or fall is not their sexual identity. It is rather their talents as persons and their opportunities as individuals," the bishop said.

"It is not [the sex] of a person that makes the difference but what he or she does with it. Human sexuality is an accompaniment of a person that changes his disposition but not his constitution. That is why discrimination among persons has no place in civilized society. They are essentially equal," Cruz said.

The bishop said heterosexual males "unduly inclined to women" were also not meant for the priesthood.

"This, too, is not discrimination but the admission of truth. It would be unrealistic to impose celibacy on them. Such would be asking them something extraordinary, which is also unfair and unreasonable," he said.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Don't sell lots gov't gave you, settlers urged

By Cynthia D. Balana

VICE PRESIDENT NOLI DE CASTRO APpealed yesterday to beneficiaries of the government's national housing program to keep their newly acquired homes and not sell them to squatter syndicates and contribute further to the squatting problem in the country.

"The houses provided to you by the government are not only benefits for a lifetime but a legacy that you can pass on to your children and succeeding generations. Keep and take very good care of them," De Castro told some 400 squatter families who were awarded certificates of title and lot entitlement in Cavite the other day.

De Castro lamented that some beneficiaries of the housing program under the North Luzon Railway relocation program were selling their newly acquired houses.

"For one reason or another, some of the families who were relocated in the north are selling their houses. This worries me because the government can't afford to give them a second chance to have their very own house and lot," he said.

Instead of selling their houses, De Castro urged the relocated families to use the properties as collateral to obtain small loans to start businesses and augment their incomes.

"*Napakalaking bagay po ang pagkakaroon ng lupa, dahil hindi lamang po ito tirahan kundi maaaring maging kapital din para sa inyong pagunlad. Puede ninyong gamiting kolateral iyan para makautang ng pondong pang-negosyo* (Having your own lot is a very big thing because not only could you live on it, it could provide you with collateral)," De Castro said.

For his part, Cavite Vice Gov. Jonvic Remulla said government efforts to make a brighter future for the homeless families would go to waste if they turned the national relocation program into a milking cow.

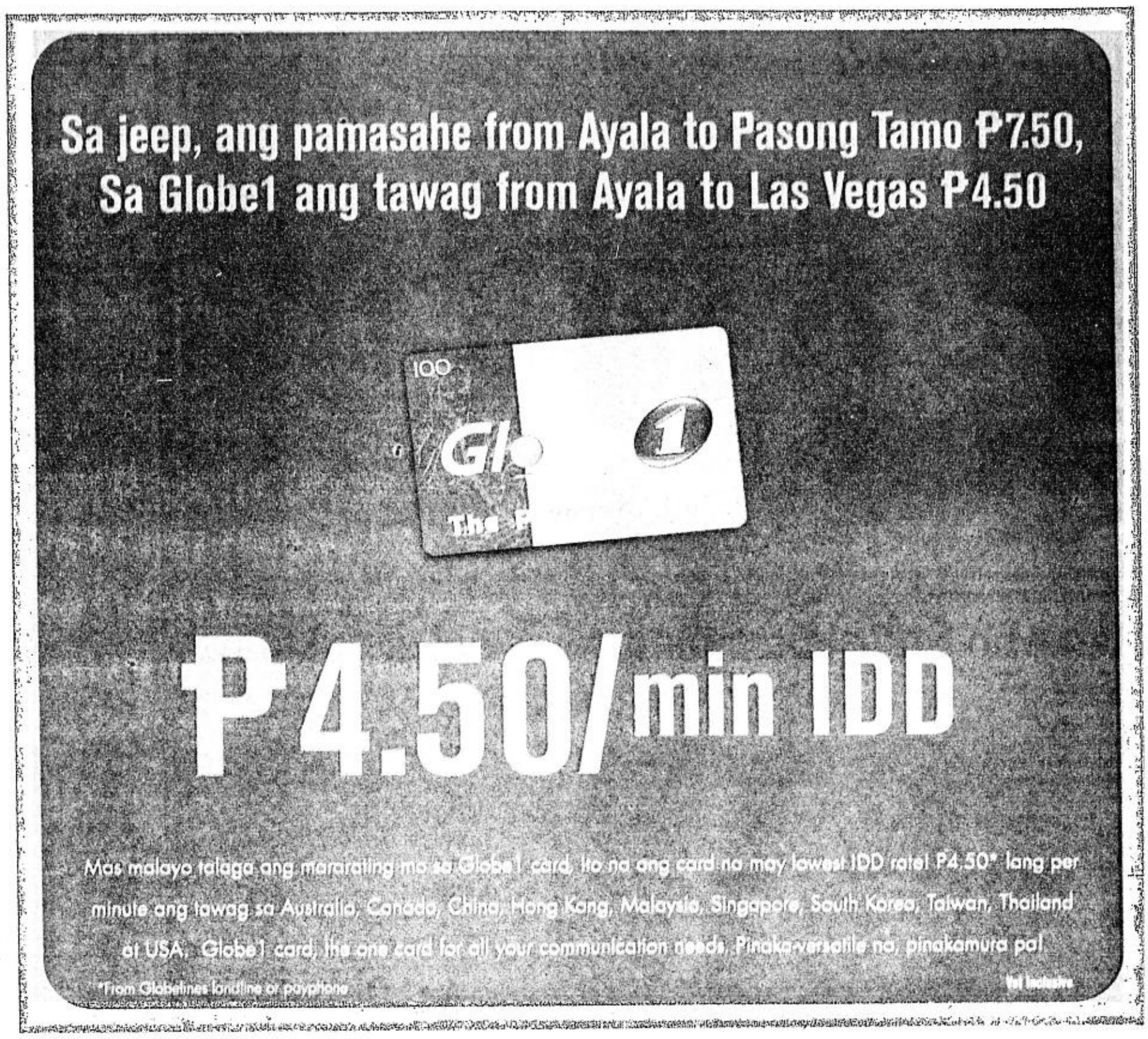
Lectures on GMA, economy slated

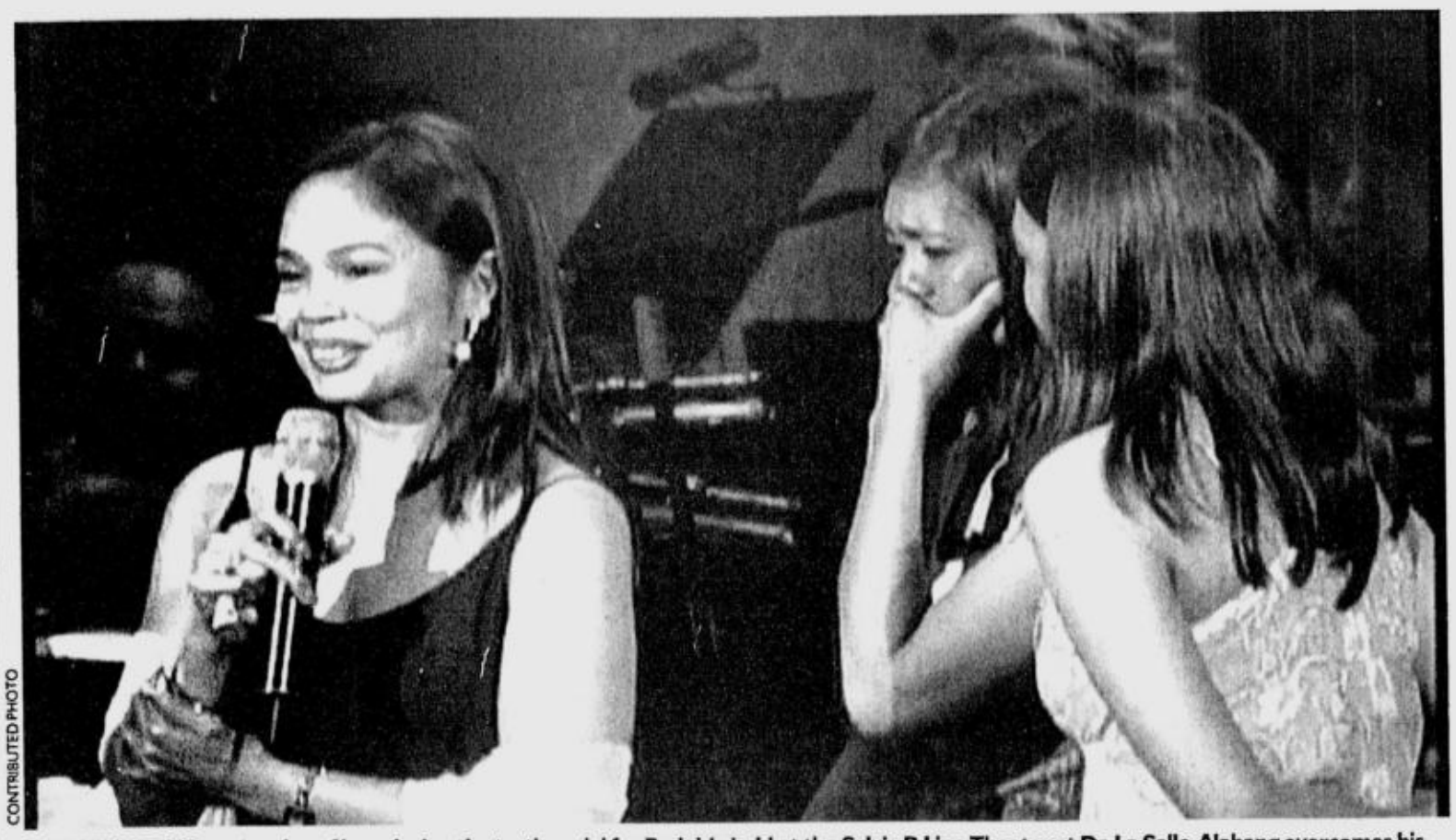
THE PHILIPPINE STUDIES ASSOCIATION Inc. will present the first in a projected Public Lecture series on Dec. 5 at 2 p.m. at the Philippine Social Science Center Auditorium on Commonwealth Ave., Quezon City.

Bienvenido L. Lumbera, Ph.D. (professor emeritus, University of the Philippines; 2003 Ramon Magsaysay awardee for journalism, literature and creative communication arts) and Federico M. Macaranas, Ph.D. (executive director, AIM Policy Center and AIM-World Bank Development Resource Center) will deliver lectures on "The Cultural Aspect of the Oust Gloria Movement" and "The Philippines in the Asian Regional Economy," respectively.

A general assembly and election of the board of the Philippine Studies Association will be held after the lectures. All PSA members are enjoined to attend. New members are welcome.

For inquiries, contact Rowena Reyes-Boquiren at tel. 0917-5069641; Bernardita R. Churchill, 921-4575, 0918-444-4510; or Francis A. Gealogo, 0921-699-9417.





CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

THE GENEROUS outpouring of love during the testimonial for Redubla held at the Sylvia P. Lina Theater at De La Salle-Alabang overcomes his wife Rina and daughters Khyreen, Dewi and Yoni (covered). Funds have been pledged to finance Khyreen' s high school and college education.

Man who got tribute no one ever did at Customs

From page A1

declared martial law in 1972.

The NPA was struggling to get a foothold on the island and the 21-year-old Aaron became part of a 2-man team assigned to open a guerrilla front in Southern Leyte, called LAIR, for Leyte Armed Independent Regime.

The pair had only a pistol between them and Aaron quipped that LAIR really stood for Leyte Armless Isolated Revolutionaries.

Lifestyle check

It was the kind of sardonic humor that would carry him through life.

Years later, when he was already at customs and the government was trumpeting its lifestyle check policy, he told friends: "Maybe they should also conduct a lifestyle check on the unexplained poverty of the majority of government employees."

Aaron was on the run for almost two years when his father persuaded him to give up.

The local Constabulary chief in Leyte was a family friend and Aaron enjoyed a privileged status while detained. Allowed to resume his studies, he obtained his Bachelor of Arts degree, major in English, from the Divine Word University—the only student to have a military escort.

Freed in March 1975, he taught in the DWU English department.

Heavy smoker

I met Aaron in 1978 when I joined the National Media Production Center in Tacloban, where he was also working. At the same time, he was DJ at an FM radio station and his baritone voice made him a hit among young girls.

He was already a heavy smoker then.

After passing the bar in 1982, Aaron moved over to the Philippine Broadcasting System and organized dySL, a government station in Southern Leyte.

Marcos closed dySL four years later, before the 1986 elections, for allowing the opposition to use its air lanes.

After Marcos fell, Aaron ran for mayor in Burauen but lost. He already had a plane ticket and a US visa when then Customs Commissioner Salvador Mison took him into the bureau in 1989.

Revolution in his heart

It wasn't long before customs people saw how Aaron worked to serve a government he had wanted to overthrow.

He would come in before the others had washed their faces and worked well into the night, going home long after they had left, emcee and customs liaison officer John Simon narrated.

Seldom did he leave papers lying overnight on his table. By the time he called it a day, they were ready for action.

Having also worked at customs, I wondered whether his work ethic might not be his way of making up for his failed revolution. Or his way of carrying on the revolution, if only in his heart.

Served 11 commissioners

In all, Aaron served 11 commissioners, mostly as chief of staff or special assistant. They just couldn't dispense with his ability to get things done.

Thus, he ended up being "frozen" in the commissioner's office, save for brief stints as deputy collector for operations and collector of the Port of Manila.

"Most commissioners would not have Aaron even one building away," Arevalo said in a nostalgic testimonial.

"(He) never allowed politics and personalities to compromise ... his work or his personal integrity," ex-Commissioner Titus Villanueva said in a video.

In April 2004, he retired from customs, hoping to organize a consultancy outfit. In an agency where some faked birth dates so they could hang on forever, his decision to retire surprised many.

But Lina prevailed upon Aaron to rejoin the bureau as senior deputy commissioner. He came back—but never got his new appointment papers. It seemed symbolic of the unrecognized life he lived.

Weeks later, in May, he found out he had lung cancer.

"The go-to guy whenever we needed answers to difficult, especially technical, questions," Ampil said of him.

Said former Commissioner Tomas Apacible: "I would not have papers go out of my desk without Aaron giving me his opinion so I could decide more prudently."

Asean Secretariat's Quang Anh Le said that when news of Aaron's death got around, he was flooded with messages of condolence from Asean colleagues.

"He set a good example for me as well as for other customs officers. What we are doing here cannot make up for (our) loss," Le said.

Acts of love

When friends heard he was undergoing expensive chemotherapy and radiation, they gave financial support.

Parayno and Lina made arrangements to cover his unpaid hospital bills and funeral expenses. A businesswoman offered to finance the high school and college education of his youngest daughter, Khyreen.

"No one can find his equal at customs," said an importer, who insisted on giving his own testimonial even if he was not on the program.

Villanueva explained the outpouring of love: "He worked without expecting anything in return ... For the many years he was in customs, Aaron did not enrich himself."

Foundation in his honor

To preserve Aaron's legacy, Parayno, Lina, Melita Belicena of the Swiss-based smuggling watchdog Societe Generale Surveillance, and others are putting up a foundation to honor honest civil servants.

"There are many unsung heroes in government. No sense waiting for them to pass away, too, before we recognize them," Parayno said.

Before Aaron's wife, Rina, and her children rose to receive the citation, the Manila Symphony struck up the theme from the movie "Mission Impossible."

The Madrigals came back with "Let It Be" and, in a gesture of farewell, two customs volunteers belted out the night's signature song—Elton John's "Skyline Pigeon."

Not bad for a young man who failed in his mission to set up a guerrilla front in Leyte.

Not bad for that long-ago boy in Burauen who refused to ride to school in his father's jeep because the other boys could only make it there on foot.

Spare Samar, townfolk appeal

By Vicente S. Labro
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—THE TOWN council of Las Navas in Northern Samar has appealed to President Macapagal-Arroyo to spare Samar from logging operations even as Catarman Bishop Emmanuel C. Trance called on the faithful "to rally to the cause" of the region's forests.

Concerned groups in the island—composed of Samar, Northern Samar and Eastern Samar—have denounced a recent order from the environment department allowing a logging company owned by Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile to resume logging in an area which lies within the protected Samar Island Natural Park.

According to Las Navas Vice Mayor Myrna Lluz, the town council passed a resolution asking the President to rescind the order issued by Environment Secretary Michael Defensor that allowed the San Jose Timber Corp. to resume logging in Samar.

The town's officials, led by Mayor Arlito Tan, went to Manila to personally give the resolution to the President but were unable to meet with Ms Arroyo as she had left for South Korea for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation leaders' summit, Lluz said.

Bishop Trance meanwhile issued a pastoral letter, calling on "all the people of God" in the diocese "to pray, reflect and act together in protecting the dignity, rights and welfare of everyone, especially the poor, while at the same time defending the integrity of creation."

Trance said they were "distressed" that the justifications made for allowing the SJTC to resume operation were based solely on legal arguments.

"Nowhere did the DENR order consider, even with a passing thought, the human and ecological factors involved," he said.

Lluz said Samareños were opposed to reopening the island up to logging again when it had already been declared a forest reserve by President Ramos and then a protected area by Ms Arroyo in 2003.

She said she knew of the SJTC operations back when it had its camp in Barangay San Isidro in Las Navas. She said the firm brought down the cut logs from the mountains through the Catubig River to the waiting Japanese ships in the Pacific Ocean.

Lluz said the 16 years of logging moratorium had been beneficial as it resulted in the rehabilitation of the Catubig River, whose waters had turned brown from siltation because of the cutting of trees.

The SJTC started its operations in Samar in 1972 with a concession area of 46,840 hectares. This grew to 95,770 hectares when the firm merged with Dolores Timber Industries.

GMA to sports writers: Let's write about heroes, not bickerings

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT ARROYO YESterday urged sports editors and reporters to focus their stories on sporting heroes rather than on her political foes in their coverage of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games which opens today.

"Let's concentrate on the athletes, not on the bickerings. I've even invited the opposition to watch the opening because sports as you know is a unifying element," the President during a lunch meeting with the sports media in Malacañang's Music Room.

She said she invited the sports writers and editors to Malacañang "so you can help inform the public about the Games," which will be covered live on NBN 4.

Over the past two weeks, the President has been very vocal about her views on how journalists should pick their topics and write their stories.

The President urged the media to be more responsible and shed its "bad boy image" by giving more print and air time to good news rather than "losers" or her political rivals. She was also seen directing some reporters to interview specific individuals in a job fair she was visiting.

The 23rd Southeast Asian Games also marks the return of First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo to the limelight. He had broken his exile in the United States that the President in June said was a personal sacrifice to reduce the political tension in the country. The First Gentleman has officially resumed his role as Chef de Mission of Team Philippines.

Aside from today's opening ceremony at the Rizal Park, the President said she would attend a karatedo competition in Cebu and the Philippines-Vietnam women's volleyball game in Bacolod on Tuesday.

During the lunch meeting, the President also revealed plans to open the country's first Institute of Sports that would provide training for coaches and instructors to help them prepare for the Olympic Games in Beijing in 2008.

"We'd like to win a gold medal in Beijing and we're focusing on 10 sports like boxing and taekwondo," said the President who ordered sports officials to maximize the country's participation in Olympic scholarship programs.

Ex- Unicef exec crusades for preschool Pinoy kids

From page A1

with his former wards.

The American who had grown accustomed to being called *lolo* (grandfather) is traveling to various points in the United States to gather support for his Anak Natin Foundation.

Anak Natin (Our Children) seeks to ensure that Filipino kids receive a preschool education, and that daycare facilities in the poorest provinces of the Philippines are well-equipped.

"Each child I meet is just like my grandchild, sometimes naughty but mostly eager to please, and full of wonder and dreams," Hill, 62, said in an e-mail.

The INQUIRER conducted an online interview with Hill, who has retired after 25 years of service with Unicef and is now back in his native Idaho.

"I learned great respect for the Filipino resilience and ready smile in the face of calamity and disaster," he said.

Crisis in education

But the crisis of illiteracy in the Philippines was not something Hill could smile about.

Two out of three Filipino children do not have access to preschool education, and 40 percent of five-year-olds, or 860,000, do not attend preschool.

At least 9,800 barangays in the country have no daycare center, while those that have such facilities are lacking in teaching materials.

Three out of 10 first-graders are not likely to reach the sixth grade.

Hill said he presented this scenario to about 40 Filipino-Americans who attended the formal launch of Anak Natin at a community health center in Daly City on Oct. 10.

He said the audience was shocked by the severity of the crisis in education in the Philippines.

"They are aware of poverty and street children and other high-profile issues, but the quiet crisis of illiteracy and high dropout [rate] is largely hidden," he said.

According to Hill, many Filipino-Americans who are now enjoying the good life in the United States continue to have a strong affinity for "back home" and are wishing that things would get better for those left in their native land, he said.

At the end of the Daly City meeting, Hill received 15 checks totaling $770 for Anak Natin.

Everyone's business

"I have long strongly felt that the welfare of children is everyone's business," Hill said, adding:

"One of the missions of the foundation is to help Filipinos in the USA and elsewhere to reach out, participate and contribute to enhancing the lives of children in the Philippines."

Hill and volunteers of Anak Natin also did fund-raisers in Seattle on Oct. 28 and Los Angeles on Nov. 12. Hill will be meeting with Filipino-Americans throughout December for the foundation's Christmas campaign.

Anak Natin needs to raise $125,000 by yearend so it can start its School-in-a-Box program by January.

This program involves sending packages of educational materials to daycare centers in Philippine regions with the lowest child welfare indicators.

The "boxes" will contain a guide to lessons, activity materials, chalk and drawing boards for teachers, along with workbooks, crayons, pencils, paper, scissors and even toothbrushes and soap for the students.

The materials for School-in-a-Box have been selected and approved by the Council for the Welfare of Children, the Philippines' Department of Education, Unicef and experts from other groups like Save the Children and Plan International.

Continuing commitment

Hill's interest in the crisis in education in the Philippines was sparked by a conversation with a third-grader in Leyte in 1998.

The girl had told Hill she was worried that she could not get to the fourth grade. She said her school had only three classrooms, and to advance to the next grade, she would have to walk three kilometers to a neighboring, more dangerous barangay.

"I determined that day that I would give priority to education in the Unicef program," he said.

Thirteen months after his retirement, Hill continues to live by his commitment. But with a difference: He is now working thousands of miles away and outside an internationally recognized and supported agency.

Hill does most of the work—including answering phones and turning out the lights—but his is not a solo effort for Anak Natin.

The group involves former Filipino colleagues in Unicef, and, yes, even members of his family.

One of his sons, a photographer and graphic designer, designed the Anak Natin website (anaknatin.org); the youngest son programmed the website.

Both did it "out of love," Hill said.

Target funding

Anak Natin will increase its target funding to $250,000 next year, $400,000 in 2007 and $500,000 in 2008.

If the targets are met, it could help 100,000 children.

Hill has appeared in a series of concerts by Gary Valenciano in the United States, where the singer introduced him and Anak Natin to thousands of Filipino-Americans.

The concert programs also contained leaflets about the foundation.

Let the SEA Games begin

From page A1

The last time the Philippines hosted the SEA Games in 1991, it snared nine of the first 20 gold medals at stake and led the first day of competition. Indonesia eventually overtook the Philippines for the overall title with 92 golds, just one gold more than the Filipinos, who posted their best ever finish in the competition that started in 1959 in Bangkok as the Southeast Asian Peninsular (Seap) Games.

It has been been a roller-coaster ride for the Philippines since then with the Filipinos winding up fourth in the 2003 Vietnam edition with 49 golds. The host Vietnamese cruised to the overall championship with 156 golds.

Now, the prospects are a lot better for the Filipinos.

Golden prediction

Filipino sports officials, headed by Philippine Olympic Committee president and Philippine Southeast Asian Games Organizing Committee chair Jose "Peping" Cojuangco and Philippine Sports Commission chair William "Butch" Ramirez, predicting a golden haul of from a low 90 to a high 120.

If that lofty goal is reached, the Filipinos stand a good chance of placing second overall or even wresting the general championship.

Extensive training, international exposure and strong crowd support have put them on equal footing with traditional powerhouses Indonesia and Thailand and Vietnam, which has downplayed its chances this year.

The Games will have its version of Super Sunday on Dec. 4 with an unprecedented 100 gold medals at stake.

The other countries participating in the meet are Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Burma (Myanmar), and East Timor. They will compete for a total of 439 gold medals, 439 silvers and 590 bronze medals in 41 sports.

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Gateway to world opens for Palestinians

RAFAH, GAZA STRIP – QUEUES of excited Palestinians lined up Saturday to await the opening of the Rafah crossing from the Gaza Strip into Egypt, the tiny territory's only gateway to the outside world.

About 1,000 Palestinians were waiting to cross into Egypt for the first time since the border was closed almost three months ago, without having to first run the gauntlet of Israeli security checks.

"It is a dream come true for us to be here to celebrate the reopening of the Rafah terminal as a free crossing between us and our brothers in Egypt," Palestinian leader Mahmud Abbas said at an official opening on Friday.

Under EU supervision, the transit route opens up the world to the Gaza Strip's 1.3 million largely impoverished residents, after fears the territory would be transformed into a "giant prison" after a 38-year Israeli occupation.

It represents the first time the Palestinians have been in control of an external border of their territory.

Palestinian officials hope a fully functioning border will help kickstart a desperately depressed economy overly dependent on Israel and help bring down unemployment that has soared to almost 40 percent in recent months.

The Rafah terminal is opening for the first time without direct Israeli control since a border crossing was established after Israel signed a peace deal with Egypt in 1979.

The crossing will be reopened to the public at midday (1000 GMT) on Saturday and will initially operate for four hours a day. It will run under Palestinian and Egyptian management and supervised by 70 European Union observers.

Israel finally left the Gaza Strip in mid-September but since then has kept the gates shute to the territory, which has no seaport and a mothballed international airport that was bombarded by Israeli war planes four years ago.

Israel had long refused to reopen the border, citing fears that weapons could be smuggled from Egypt into Gaza, a stronghold of Palestinian militant factions such as Hamas and Islamic Jihad.

And efforts to negotiate an agreement with Israel for a reopening ran aground until the personal intervention of US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, who managed to secure a deal during a visit to the region on Nov. 15.

UN chief Kofi Annan welcomed the border opening.

"The secretary general hopes that the same spirit of cooperation will be brought to the implementation of the other access and movement issues agreed upon as part of the disengagement process," Annan's spokesman Stephane Dujarric said in a statement.

EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana also hailed it as an important step toward a Palestinian state.

"The opening of Rafah is a great opportunity, it is a turning point," he said in a statement. "For the first time, Palestinians assume the responsibility to manage external borders. It is an important step toward eventual statehood." *AFP*

PALESTINIANS wait to cross at the Rafah terminal border crossing between the Gaza Strip and Egypt on Nov. 25. 2005. AP

Al Jazeera head seeks explanation on US bomb report

LONDON – ARABIC NEWS CHANNEL AL Jazeera's general manager flew to London on Friday to demand the British government explain a leaked report that US President George W. Bush wanted to bomb the TV station.

The Daily Mirror newspaper reported on Tuesday that a secret British government memo said Prime Minister Tony Blair had talked Bush out of bombing Al Jazeera's headquarters in Qatar in April last year.

"I have come to London in order to reach out to British officials, to investigate about the memo that some claim exists during the past week," Al Jazeera managing director Waddah Khanfar told Reuters by telephone after his arrival in London.

"It is a matter of deep concern for all of us in Al Jazeera, and the Arab world and the media." He said a delegation from the channel would deliver a letter to Blair on Saturday asking for an interview.

The White House has said the allegation that Bush wanted to bomb Jazeera is "so outlandish" it does not merit a response.

Britain, which is prosecuting a civil servant and a parliamentarian's aide for leaking the secret memo, refuses to comment on its contents.

The Daily Mirror quoted one unnamed government official saying Bush's comments may have been a joke, but another unidentified source saying the president appeared to be serious.

Britain's attorney general has warned other media that they can be prosecuted under the Official Secrets Act if they reveal anything else about the memo.

"It is of very deep concern not only to Al Jazeera journalists, but to people who trust Al Jazeera as the most credible source of information in the Arab world," Khanfar said.

"People should know the facts about it. It is not a matter that can be brushed away or dealt with in very vague statements."

Blair's spokesman said the prime minister's office had not yet received a formal request from Al Jazeera for an interview, but the British government would be willing to talk to Al Jazeera as it would to any other news organization.

"This is the first I suspect that Downing Street has heard of this request. It is somewhat short notice," he said.

Al Jazeera has repeatedly denied US accusations it sides with insurgents in Iraq. Khanfar said it was time the United States stopped accusing it of supporting terrorism.

"We demand to know the facts about this document and we demand a (cessation) of all kinds of accusations from the American administration."

Asked if he thought it was true that Bush wanted to bomb the station, Khanfar said: "We are going to suspend any judgment until we find out if that document is correct or not. But I can say we were attacked twice, once in Kabul and once in Baghdad, and two of our colleagues were killed."

In 2001, the station's Kabul office was hit by US bombs and in 2003 Al Jazeera reporter Tareq Ayyoub was killed in a US strike on its Baghdad office. The United States has denied deliberately targeting the station.

The Daily Mirror said Bush told Blair at a White House summit on April 16, 2004 that he wanted to target Al Jazeera. *Reuters*

Imagine yourself in the future.

Penniless.

We can't.
That's why Insular Life offers you I-Fund.

- 5 years to pay
- 15 years life insurance protection
- Life insurance protection automatically doubles starting on the 5th up to the 15th policy year
- Guaranteed annual pension benefits:
  - 10% of the insured amount starting at the end of the 8th year until the end of the 11th year
  - 20% of the insured amount starting at the end of the 12th year until the end of the 14th year
- Lump sum cash benefit equal to the insured amount at the end of the 15th year in addition to the annual pension benefits

i-fund

All these from the company that understands every hard-working individual -- insular life.
Providing products especially designed for the financial needs of the Filipino family for 95 years.

INSULAR LIFE True to you.

For inquiries, please call our Market Research and Product Management Staff at tel nos. 771-1818 locals 1313, 1317 to 1320, Mondays - Fridays, 8AM - 5PM.

Philippine Super Brands

Insurance Category

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Europe gov'ts press US on CIA prisons, flights

STRASBOURG/BUCHAREST—Satellite images could help determine if the CIA ran secret prisons in Europe, according to a Swiss lawmaker who is drawing up a report on the issue for the Council of Europe human rights watchdog.

But the politician, Dick Marty, said it would be impossible for a facility resembling the US prison camp at Guantanamo Bay to be secretly maintained in Europe for any length of time.

"I don't think this is possible and in this respect if the Romanian government tells me they haven't had a Guantanamo Bay, I'll believe it instantly," he told reporters in Bucharest.

"What is possible, is that maybe there were planes which landed, which stayed here for a while, which left somebody who maybe stayed for 10, 15, 20, 30 days, but this is more difficult to discover."

Romania and Poland were named by campaign group Human Rights Watch earlier this month as possible sites for CIA secret prisons after the Washington Post reported the existence of such facilities in Eastern Europe. Both countries deny it.

"I have no knowledge of that. Nothing like this has happened in a military facility," Polish Defense Minister Radoslaw Sikorski said on Friday.

"We are not carrying out an investigation. I haven't received any letter from the Council of Europe. Besides, I don't think intelligence is a matter for the Council of Europe."

The comments came as pressure mounted on the United States from governments around Europe to clarify reports of secret CIA flights across the continent carrying terrorist suspects, some of whom were allegedly tortured after being delivered to third countries.

"We're waiting first of all to see what comes out of the investigations, and we hope that the Americans will deliver a response," German Justice Minister Brigitte Zypries told ZDF television.

Two German prosecutors are investigating alleged secret transfers, or "renditions," by the CIA. One case involves a German national who was seized in Macedonia and transferred to Afghanistan, and the other an Egyptian who was abducted in Milan and returned to Egypt via Germany.

In the Netherlands, Dutch Foreign Minister Bernard Bot said he had asked Washington for an explanation after media reports that a suspected CIA plane, possibly carrying prisoners, had passed through Amsterdam's Schiphol airport last week.

He said he had asked the United States for "further clarifications as far as that is concerned, notably rumors concerning prisons here in Europe (and) planes that are carrying such prisoners from one place to another."

Officials in Denmark, Portugal, Ireland, Sweden and Finland all said they had raised similar concerns with Washington, although the Finnish defense ministry said there was no evidence that a reported CIA flight via Helsinki in May 2003 had been carrying prisoners.

Spain, responding to allegations that CIA planes used an aircraft in Mallorca as a base for transporting Islamist militant suspects, said it was satisfied US aircraft had broken no law.

But it said it would step up checks on civilian planes stopping in or flying over its territory to make sure they were "exclusively civilian" flights.

The Council of Europe's Marty said he had contacted the EU Satellite Centre, based in Spain, to seek images of sites which could have been used as prison facilities.

"With the help of precise geographic coordinates which I have obtained, it would be possible to obtain high-definition satellite images taken between the beginning of 2002 and now," he said in a note published in Strasbourg.

He added that he intended to ask Eurocontrol, the European civil and military organization responsible for the safety of air navigation, to follow up on the allegations that prisoners illegally detained by the CIA might have passed through some European airports in transit. His note said 31 planes were in question. *Reuters*

Strong China quake kills 14, hurts hundreds

BEIJING—AT LEAST 14 DIED, hundreds more were injured and thousands of houses collapsed when an earthquake measuring 5.7 on the Richter scale hit near a popular tourist spot in east China Saturday, officials said.

The quake, which could be felt in big industrial cities hundreds of kilometers away, struck at 8:49 a.m., according to the China National Seismic Observation Network.

"We'd just finished our breakfast, when we heard a huge roar, like someone setting off really loud firecrackers," said a civil affairs official in the city of Ruichang.

"Then the houses started shaking, and we just jumped outside," the official, surnamed Liu, said.

Five hours after the quake, state television reported that 14 were confirmed dead, while the Ministry of Civil Affairs put out a statement saying more than 370 had been injured.

The epicenter was near the city of Jiujiang, home to half a million people and a scenic spot for centuries.

Thousands of rural homes were flattened in the temblor, one official said.

The US Geological Survey said the quake occurred about 10 km below the surface of the earth.

That makes it a so-called "shallow" earthquake, similar to the devastating quake that struck in Kashmir in early October, a category of tremor generally known to cause greater damage than deeper ones.

In the first hours after disaster struck, local officials struggled to assess the human toll exacted in their respective areas.

"Six people were killed in Jiujiang county," a local official said. "Another 247 were injured."

An official in nearby Ruichang city said six people had been killed there, while four were seriously injured, and 35 slightly injured.

He said the two sets of casualty figures from Jiujiang county and Ruichang city did not overlap. *AFP*

Exercise may not protect old from mental decline

NEW YORK—STAYING PHYSICALly active can help keep adults fit as they grow older, but, contrary to what some may think, it may not protect against mental decline, according to a new study.

"While participation in physical activity has been shown to have many health benefits for older adults, this study does not provide strong support that it protects against cognitive decline," study author Dr. Maureen T. Sturman, of Rush University Medical Center in Chicago, Illinois and the John H. Stroger Hospital of Cook County, said.

Previous researchers have reported that physical activity may help guard against stroke and coronary heart disease, both of which may be associated with the development of dementia.

Other studies have looked at the influence of physical activity on mental status and mental decline in old age, but such studies were either limited in their scope or had short follow-up times.

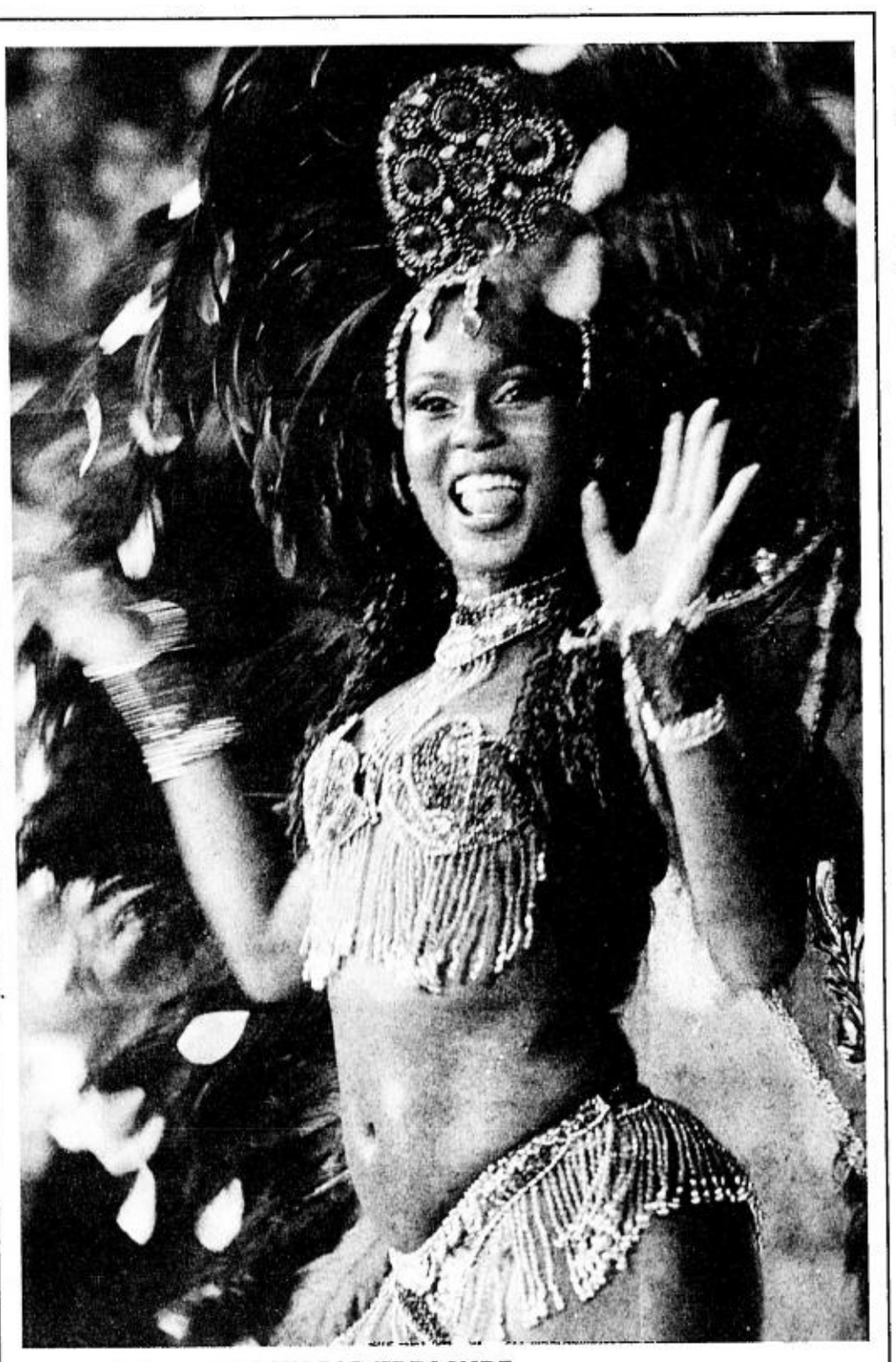
In the current study, Sturman and her team analyzed 1993 to 2003 data from the Chicago Health and Aging Project, a large ongoing study of risk factors for chronic disease among elderly adults. The 4,055 study participants, aged 73.5 years, on average, were black and white seniors who lived in the community. They were followed-up for about six years, during which they participated in periodic assessments of their mental health.

On average, the seniors engaged in nearly four hours of physical activity each week, the report indicates. Slightly more than half reported walking for exercise, more than a third reported gardening or doing yard work, and about a quarter said they participated in calisthenics or general exercise, the researchers report in this month's Archives of Neurology.

Such physical activity did not appear to be associated with higher mental function at the start of the study, however.

Further, although increased hours of physical activity appeared to be associated with slower rates of mental decline, this association did not hold true when the seniors' participation in mentally stimulating activities was taken into consideration, the report indicates.

"It may be that those older individuals who participate in physical activity are also more likely to participate in cognitively stimulating activities," Sturman speculated. "This study suggests it is important to account for the cognitive component of leisure activities to better understand the role of physical activity on cognition for older adults," she added. *Reuters*



NOW OFFICIALLY A WORLD TREASURE
A dancer performs with the Imperio Serrano samba school at the Sambodrome in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in this Feb. 6 photo. The UN cultural body added 43 traditions Nov. 25 to its list of intangible heritage treasures, including Brazil's samba, Japan's kabuki, Turkey's whirling dervishes and a "cultural space" in a 17th-century walled Colombian village. AP

Antiwar activist revives protest near Bush ranch

CRAWFORD, TEXAS—PRESIDENT GEORGE W. Bush's hopes for a brief reprieve from the bitter Iraq war debate were dashed on Friday when peace activist Cindy Sheehan rallied her troops in protest near his central Texas ranch.

Bush is spending a six-day Thanksgiving break at "Prairie Chapel," about 13 km from the tiny town of Crawford where Sheehan dedicated a memorial garden to her son Casey, a soldier who died in Iraq last year.

"We're here to say that the killing has to stop and we're not going away," Sheehan told scores of supporters. "We want people to be held accountable and just because someone's president of the United States, it doesn't guarantee them immunity from accountability."

The California mother unveiled a stone carved with the words "Sheehan's Stand" set among cactus and yucca plants. The ceremony was punctuated by hecklers in passing pickup trucks, one of whom shouted, "Go home you freakin' losers!"

Sheehan, who plans to lead an anti-war rally on Saturday and participate in an interfaith service on Sunday, became an icon for the peace movement during a 26-day vigil outside Bush's ranch in the summer.

She took her protest to Washington in September where she was arrested for demonstrating without a permit outside the White House.

With Bush out of public sight working and biking on his 648-hectare (1,600-acre) ranch, Sheehan helped fill a news void for the White House press corps – including five television networks – that travels with the president.

Protesters say they will come to Crawford every time Bush visits his ranch. Supporters vowed to do the same.

Across the street from the Yellow Rose gift shop, Vietnam War veteran James Vergauwen stood with a sign reading: "The price of freedom is not free." He and others will stage a pro-Bush rally on Saturday.

"I didn't like the idea of her calling the president a liar and a killer," Vergauwen said.

Crawford – population 700, one traffic signal – prepared for the influx by erecting a large warning sign for motorists a mile or so outside town that flashed the words: "Expect heavy traffic Friday, Saturday and Sunday." *Reuters*

Snowstorms presage long, hard winter for Europe

LONDON—PARTS OF BRITAIN WERE returning to normal Saturday after snowstorms and freezing temperatures led to chaos, as France upped its weather alert in parts of the country after three people froze to death as Europe dug in for a long hard winter.

In Britain hardest hit was Devon and Cornwall in southwest England, where the A30 highway in Bodmin Moor ground to a halt for several hours as 12.7 cm (five inches) of snow fell on the area.

By 11:30 p.m., however, police reported only 20 abandoned vehicles left, while 500 people who had been stranded on the stretch of desolate road had all been rescued—some by military helicopters and recovery vehicles.

Fears that up to 2,000 pupils in southwest England would have to spend Friday night sleeping at school also proved unfounded, after all the youngsters were found somewhere to stay for the night or managed to return home.

Such wintery weather—unusual for most part in the British Isles—served to remind Britons of a warning given earlier by the Met Office that this winter could be harsher than usual.

The season's first snows also fell in downtown Paris and other parts of France, where two homeless men died of the cold as temperatures plunged.

A third man, 38, was found frozen to death in his car, where he had been living, in northeastern France where temperatures fell to minus five degrees Celsius.

The French authorities responded late on Friday by raising their weather alert in 31 departments, and asked for "increased vigilance" in the capital Paris.

Snow was reported from the Pyrenees in the south of France, where mountain passes were shut, to Normandy in the north, where the giant bridge across the Seine estuary was closed.

Snowfalls also caused 30 internal flights to be canceled at Germany's main Frankfurt airport, and road closures in the west and south of the country.

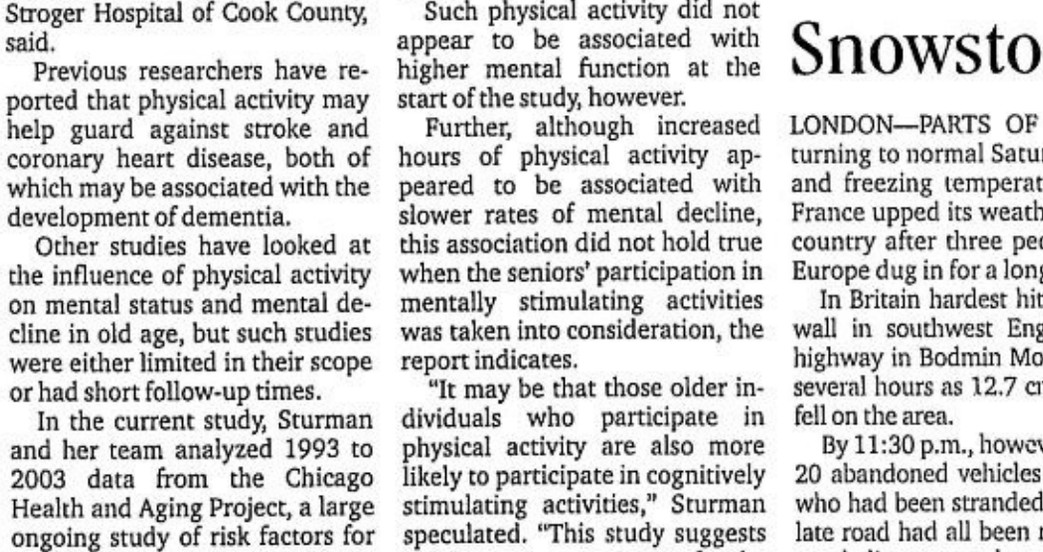
In Britain Tesco, the biggest British retailer, said the cold snap had triggered a surge in demand for traditional winter favourites such as porridge, soups, pies, puddings and hot chocolate.

Up to 25 cm of snow fell in some parts of Britain, and forecasters predicted that snow was heading for London soon.

The odds on snow falling on Christmas Day have dropped to five to one in London, and four to one in Glasgow and Aberdeen in Scotland.

The odds that Christmas 2005 will be the coldest on record in Britain dropped from 25 to one to 20 to one.

The coldest Dec. 25 recorded was minus 18.3 degrees Celsius (-0.94 Fahrenheit), in 1878 in County Durham in northeast England. *AFP*



THE PART of asteroid Itokawa is seen with the shadow of probe Hayabusa, center, in this Nov. 20 photo. Hayabusa succeeded in landing on Itokawa—floating 290 million km from Earth—and collecting surface samples Nov. 26. AP

Japan probe lands on asteroid

TOKYO—A JAPANESE SPACE PROBE made history on Saturday when it landed on the surface of an asteroid and then collected rock samples that could give clues to the origin of the solar system.

The probe, called Hayabusa—Japanese for "falcon"—succeeded in the delicate task which scientists have likened to landing a jumbo jet in a moving Grand Canyon. It was its second and final attempt.

After analyzing data transmitted from the unmanned probe, the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) said Hayabusa had touched down on the asteroid, nearly 300 million km (190 million miles) from Earth.

"I am delighted to hear that it has collected the samples.

It is the world's first such feat and it will contribute greatly to mankind's exploration of space," Science and Technology Minister Iwao Matsuda said in a statement.

Hayabusa has already sent back detailed images of the asteroid. In a photograph published on JAXA Web site http://www.isas.jaxa.jp/e/snews/2005/1110-hayabusa.shtml, the probe's shadow can be made out on its surface.

Japan's space program has had a shaky record and has recently been overshadowed by China's success in carrying out manned space flights—something Japan has never attempted.

After a voyage of two and a half years, Hayabusa on Sunday had touched down on the surface of the 548 meter-long potato-shaped asteroid, named Itokawa, marking the first landing by a Japanese spacecraft on an extraterrestrial body.

It remained there for 30 minutes, but had failed to drop the equipment for collecting surface material.

JAXA officials had said Saturday's attempt would be the final one as Hayabusa did not have enough fuel for another attempt and would have to head back to Earth.

The probe's capsule containing the samples is due to land in the Australian outback in June 2007.

Asteroids are believed to contain rocks that have remained largely unchanged since the early days of the solar system and could thus offer valuable information about its origins. *Reuters*

12th human bird flu case in Indonesia

JAKARTA—A 16-YEAR-OLD BOY HAS BEEN confirmed as Indonesia's 12th bird flu case, a health official said Saturday, as the world's fourth most populous country readied to mass-produce the antiflu drug Tamiflu.

Health ministry official Hariadi Wibisono said that the condition of the boy, who was admitted to the state hospital in West Java's provincial capital Bandung on Nov. 15, was good but he was infected.

"Tests taken from the 16-year-old boy, both locally and by the World Health Organization (WHO), show that he is a bird flu patient," he said.

"We have received news that his health condition is quite good and we hope that he can survive," he added.

Seven fatalities from the H5N1 strain of avian influenza have been confirmed in Indonesia by the WHO, but more than one dozen suspected bird flu deaths have been reported.

Health officials are currently waiting for WHO confirmation of local tests that showed that a 35-year-old man who died Nov. 19 was the country's eighth fatality.

Four other Indonesians have been confirmed as carrying the virus but have either recovered or are still receiving treatment.

Health Minister Siti Fadillah Supari meanwhile said Saturday that the government aimed to produce a "minimum" of 22 million Tamiflu pills, to boost the country's current stockpile of 800,000.

Ten tablets should be sufficient for one course of the antiviral drug, deemed the most effective treatment available in the event of a flu pandemic.

Swiss giant Roche approved local production of Tamiflu on Friday.

The drug is to be manufactured by state-run Kimia Farma and Indo Farma pharmaceutical firms beginning in three to five months, Supari said.

"This is a testament of our seriousness in tackling bird flu. We do not wish for Indonesia to become the world's source of bird flu," the minister told a press briefing.

The drug would be for government stockpiling purposes only and is to be distributed across West Java, Jakarta and Banteng, the three most-affected provinces in the country so far.

Bird flu has claimed more than 60 lives in Asia since 2003. *AFP*

Do you have
Bad Breath?
A SURE CURE. Therabreath™ system effectively removes harmful bacteria that caused Bad Breath, gum disease, tooth decay and related problem of bitter/ sour tastes, phlegm in throat, pasty saliva, post nasal drip, awful morning breath.
GET A BABY'S BREATH WITH THERABREATH™ SYSTEM
Gain confidence, improve your social life.
Free use of Halimeter for monitoring bad breath condition
MONEY BACK GUARANTEE
Will refund money if no good results within 7 days treatment.
Free delivery w/ in Metro Manila
Call: Tel # 890-8380; 895-5532
897-2466; 895-6775
Cel# 09177965859; 09195109455

bio research NEW & IMPROVED SUCAT HYPERMART
101 destination points...
THE ULTIMATE Pet EXPERIENCE!
OVER 2 MILLION PETS & PET PRODUCTS AVAILABLE!
LOWEST PRICE EVER!
LARGEST KOI PAVILLON SALE! ON IMPORTED KOIS ALL SIZES
IMPORTED BETTA
•CROWN TAIL •HALF-MOON •DOUBLE TAIL •SUPER DELTA •VEIL TAIL
₱36.00 up
LATEST FLOWERHORN
•RED DRAGON •BLUE DRAGON •BLUE FACE •RED CRYSTAL
10cm up ₱20.00 up
₱20.00 up
BABY HAND FED PARAKEETS
175 NOW ₱140.00 EACH
HAMSTERS
T.bear Hamstor 50 NOW ₱30.00 EACH
Siberian Hamster 135 ₱95.00 EACH
Roborovski 500 ₱349.00
RABBIT
100 NOW ₱110.00
ABYSSINIAN GUINEA PIG
150 NOW ₱110.00
FREE ENTRANCE PARKING
FREE FISH for KIDS EVERY SAT. & SUNDAY
Guaranteed ITs worth The Trip!
Contact: Nath Ngo 826-3535 loc. 134 / 137
Mon-Sat 8am - 5pm
Sunday 9am - 6pm
8362 Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat Parañaque (3.5 Km from Sucat Exit, ½ km after Manila Mem. Park next to BPI Bank -across Teenages) Tels.: 826-3535 to 38
Fax: 825-5120 Txt: (0918) 860-9027
email: bioresearch@bioresearch.com.ph
Per DTI - NCR Permit No. A2-668 Series of 2005

KING JAMES AUCTION
Suite 903 Annapolis Wilshire Plaza, No. 11 Annapolis Street, Greenhills, San Juan Metro Manila
WE BUY CLOSED FACTORY
WE BUY FORECLOSED INDUSTRIAL ASSETS, BUILDINGS, MACHINERIES AND EQUIPMENT.
INFO: (0928) 684-3333 721-3233 723-3277

SALE !!!
CARRIER CEILING MOUNTED AIR CONDITION
- 2.0 H.P. w/ remote P 31.000 /unit
- 2.5 H.P. w/ remote P 37.000 /unit
With Full Warranty
Pls. look for Ms. Fely
at Tel. 2570089 Cel.# (0917) 8304145

"We dare you to compare us with others"
DRAGON FIREWORKS
FACTORY PRICE!!!
* DEALER *
For more inquiries, call:
241-7526 • 231-5188 • 911-2981 • 421-7084
Telefax: 245-4818 • Cell No.: 0917-814-8482
e-mail: dragon_firework@yahoo.com

ENJOY at BEST PRICES + SHOPPING
GRAND INDIA TOUR
U.S LAND TOURS (US VISA ASSIST)
West Coast $ 695
Los Angeles, Disney, Universal, Las Vegas, Grand Canyon, San Francisco etc.
East Coast $ 560
East Coast+Canada $ 599
CRUISES: Singapore, Malaysia & Thailand $ 649 (more #for X-mas)
Bohol P5,475 Palawan P5,580
Puerto Galera P3,500 Boracay P5,500
Cebu P5,265
(Combinations)
Cambodia, Bangkok + Pattaya Fort Ilocandia +Pagudpud P 4,800 Banawe & Sagada (Resort Reservation Anywhere)
HONGKOK + DISNEYLAND from $ 209
BANGKOK $ 188
$ 338 from Dec.23
SINGAPORE $ 250
KOREA from Dec.26 $ 750
AUSTRALIA from $ 649
MACAU + BANGKOK $ 378
KUALA + HONGKOK $ 405
EXPERT VISA ASSISTANCE
LOWEST PLANE TICKETS!
Adams EXPRESS TRAVEL
New location at 1015 M.H. Del Pilar cor. T.M. Kalaw Ermita Manila
Tels. 521-1651 / 38 / 98 • 536-1737 • 522-3878/77 • Fax: 521-2255 • Email: www.adamstravel-ph.com

MARVELOUS TRIPS
AIRFARE
LAX / SFO $520 | HKG $165 / BKK $155
EUROPE $718 | AUSTRALIA $380
JAPAN $390 | K. LUMPUR $120
MACAU $ 80 | SIN. $75 / GUAM $273
TOUR PACKAGES
DISNEYLAND SUPER PROMO $199
HONGKONG + SHENZHEN + DISNEY $248
4D/3N DISNEYLAND SPECIAL $298
5D/4N SHANGHAI PACKAGE $199
HKG. DISNEYLAND + SZN + SHANGHAI $299
BANGKOK + SINGAPORE + HONGKONG $256
SINGAPORE + MALAYSIA + INDONESIA $293
KUALA + GENTING HIGHLANDS $247
KOTA KINABALU PKG. $ 98 | HKG SUPER PROMO $169
K. LUMPUR PKG. $188 | BANGKOK PROMO $188
BEIJING FULLBOARD $509 | SIN. LTD. PROMO $234
BKK BLOCKINGS VIA PR $255 (DEC.1-4 / 8-11 / 22-25)
COMPANY OUTINGS, GROUP TOURS & SCHOOL TRIPS AVAILABLE
ROYALWINGS TRAVEL & TOURS
2/F Northridge Plaza Annex A, 12 Congressional Ave., Q.C.
Tel. Nos.: 455-1077 • 927-3674 • Telefax: 455-1173
Cell. No.: 0916-6140577 • E-mail: royalwings_travel@yahoo.com
OPEN ON SUNDAYS
MACRIEL TRAVEL & TOURS
Rm. 301 Trinity Bldg., 636 T.M. Kalaw St., Ermita, Manila
Tels.: 521-8630 - 32 • Cell.No.: (0920) 421-8877 • (0916) 617-3728 • (0922) 543-4791 • E-mail: furiel12@yahoo.com

New Zealand your place to grow
STUDY IN NEW ZEALAND
INFORMATION SEMINAR
MAKATI A&B FUNCTION ROOMS
MAKATI SHANGRI-LA HOTEL
SUNDAY 27 NOVEMBER 2005
1:00 pm to 3:00 pm
Get a chance to discuss with representatives from the top Universal College of Learning (UCOL) and Technology (WELTEC) and more!
For Registration, please contact
New Zealand Trade and Enterprise
23/F BPI Buendia Center
Senator Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City
Tel 8915425; Fax 8915458 Email: manila@nzte.govt.nz
Website: www.newzealandeducated.com
New Zealand TRADE & ENTERPRISE
Immigration New Zealand
ABI NEW ZEALAND

We Buy Diamonds! Cash Paid Instantly
Accepts diamonds 2 carats and up preferably round, emerald or old miner's (Antigo) cut.
Guaranteed to give you the HIGHEST appraisal for your diamonds!
Only at
JOAILLIER Fine Jewelry
Ground Floor, Dusit Hotel Nikko, Ayala Center, Makati City
Mondays to Saturdays 10:00 am to 7:00 pm
All transactions strictly confidential!
Tel. Nos.: 817-8855 • 815-3191 • 0928-7093812

ATTENTION !!!
ALL AUTO SUPPLY
Be an exclusive dealer of a very high profitable Industrial & Automotive Products:
OILSEAL ENGINEERING PLASTIC
ORINGS HYDRAULIC HOSE
GASKETS HYDRAULIC PUMP
PACKING MECHANICAL SHAFT SEAL
RUBBER PRODUCTS
Earn big in your own area (Town or City) for more information.pls contact us at:
Cell # (0917) 8304145
Email: seals_specialist@yahoo.com
Look for Jun

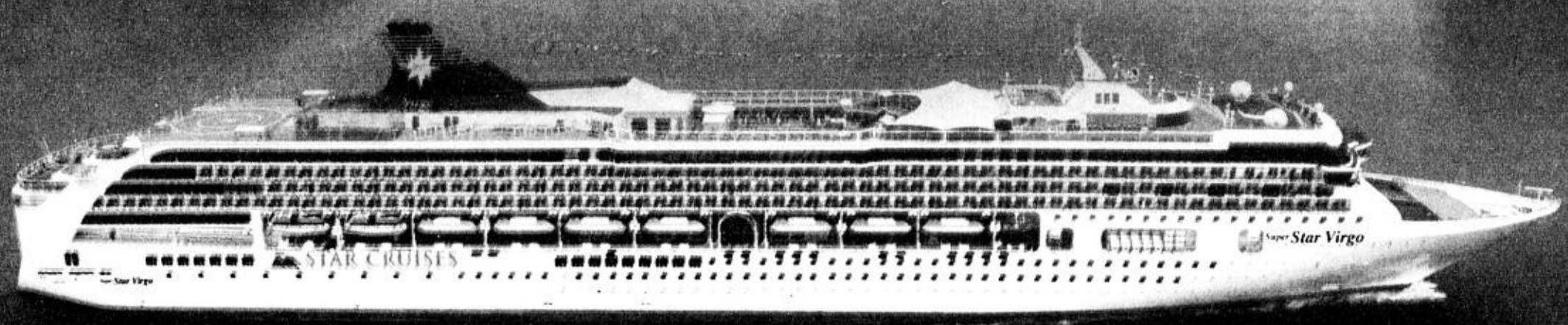
REY MARKETING INC.
Home Center
3 DAY SALE!
Nov. 28 to 30, 2005
Selected Tile Designs up to 60% off
Assorted Lights up to 25% off
Cabinet Pulls & Handles 20% off
Plaster Mouldings Cornice 20% off
Metal Railings 25% off
All discounted prices are applicable on cash purchases and same day pick-up only. Not in conjunction with other promos.
We also carry the following products: Electrical, Lighting, Plumbing, Ceramic Tiles, Sanitary Wares, Hardware Laminated Flooring, Furniture, Bath Accessories, Wood Molding, PVC & Wooden Doors
MARIWASA and TOTO
REGENT
REY MARKETING BRANCHES
ANTIPOLO • MASINAG 2 G/F Molvina Commercial Complex, Brgy. Mayamot, Marcos Highway, Antipolo City Tel. No. 646-5859 • SAN ROQUE Circumferential Road, San Roque, Antipolo, Tel. No. 697-1679 BATANGAS • BATANGAS CITY Nat'l Highway, Brgy. Balagtas, Batangas City, Tel Nos. (043) 723-6059 • STO. TOMAS San Antonio, Sto. Tomas, Batangas, Tel. No. (043) 778-4130 • Maharlika Highway, Sto. Tomas, Batangas Tel No. (043) 778-3534 LIPA • Marauoay, Lipa City Tel. No. 043-7564330 BULACAN • BALIUAG Doña Remedios, Trinidad Highway, Baliuag, Bulacan Tel. No. (044) 766-4528 • CALUMPIT Ground Floor, Narita Bldg., Pio Cruz Cosa, Calumpit, Bulacan Tel. No. (044) 675-1555 VALENZUELA • 415 McArthur Highway, Dalandanan, Valenzuela City Tel. No. 291-8058 CAVITE • BACOOR Coastal Road, Talaba, Bacoor, Cavite, Tel. No. (046) 417-1752 • IMUS Units 3 & 4 M - 8888 Bldg., Km 24, Gen. E. Aguinaldo Highway, Anabu II, Imus, Cavite Tel. No.(046)875-0834 MANDALUYONG • BONI 967 Boni Ave., Mandaluyong Metro Manila Tel. No. 747-0494 • EDSA 209 EDSA, Mandaluyong City, Tel. No. 727-7296 MUNTINLUPA • ALABANG Unit 2 G/F Aurora Bldg., Alabang Zapote Rd., Muntinlupa, Tel. No. 842-4153 NOVALICHES • 1127 Quirino Highway, Novaliches, Quezon City Tel No. 938-9073 • Lot 38 Quirino Highway, Sacred Heart Vill., Pasong Putik, Quezon City Tel.No. 461-6520 PARANAQUE • SUCAT 8390 Dr. A Santos Avenue, Parañaque City Tel. No. 829-8268/829-9664 PASIG • ROSARIO C. Raymundo Avenue, Rosario, Pasig City Tel. No. 641-6196 QUEZON CITY • BARANGAY HOLY SPIRIT Barangay Holy Spirit, Commonwealth Ave., Q.C. Tel. No. 952-9433 • QUEZON AVENUE 8 Victory Avenue,Quezon City Tel. Nos. 781-1987/711-4201 • TANDANG SORA 270 Commonwealth Avenue, Tandang Sora, Q.C. Tel. No. 931-7337 RIZAL • TAYTAY Km. 23 Ortigas Avenue Extension, San Isidro, Taytay, Rizal Tel. No. 660-7040 • TANAY F. Catapusan St., Tanay, Rizal, Tel No. 654-1940
CERAMICS PLUS, INC. BRANCHES
BULACAN • BOCAUE National Road, Turo, Bocaue, Bulacan, Tel. No. (044) 692-5722 • GUIGUINTO McArthur Highway, Tuktukan, Guiguinto, Bulacan Tel. No. (044) 794-1578 • CAVITE • SILANG E. Aguinaldo Highway, Lalaan 2, Silang, Cavite, Tel. No. (046) 865-1012
MARIKINA • Lot 5, Block 3 Jaybee Village, Nangka, Marikina, Tel. No. 948-0231
PER DTI-NCR PERMIT No. 6679 SERIES OF 2005

More than just a gift
More than just a multivitamin
IMMUVIT™
SIBERIAN & KOREAN GINSENG — Potency
CoQ10 ANTIOXIDANT — Protection
VITAMINS & MINERALS — Power
A Special Gift for your Special Someone this Christmas!
Get it at your favorite drugstore!
Always consult your doctor! Visit www.immuvit.com
For more information, e-mail immuvit@pascualab.com Text HOTLINE Type immuvit_<your message> send to 0920-9016126

Season's Greetings from Star Cruises

Enjoy 30% discount onboard the luxurious SuperStar Virgo.

Early Bird Discount* 30% / 60 days advance booking till January 29, 2006 for until March 29, 2006 sailing dates.
Early Bird Discount* 30% / 90 days advance booking effective April 2006 onwards sailing.



INCLUSIONS Luxurious Accommodation World Class Entertainment Up to 6 meals a day Recreation and Gym Facilities Children Facilities
EXCLUSIONS Boarding Tax Port Tax Hotel Accommodation Transfers and Other Taxes

SuperStar Virgo	2 Nights (WED)	3 Nights (SUN)	5 Nights (SUN)
Regular Cruise Rate	$255	$355	$540
Early Bird Discount*	$178	$250	$380

Rate per person based on quad share (Inside Stateroom Cabin)

CRUISE SCHEDULE

2N Cruise (WED)

DAY	PORT	ETA	ETD
Wed	Singapore		2359
Thu	Malacca	0700	0900
Thu	Port Klang	1400	2300
Fri	Singapore	1400	

3N Cruise (SUN)

DAY	PORT	ETA	ETD
Sun	Singapore		1600
Mon	Penang	1200	2000
Tue	Phuket	0600 (0700)	1800 (1700)
Wed	Singapore	1900	2359

5N Cruise (SUN)

DAY	PORT	ETA	ETD
Sun	Singapore		1600
Mon	Penang	1200	2000
Tue	Phuket	0600 (0700)	1800 (1700)
Wed	Singapore	1900	2359
Thu	Malacca	0700	0900
Thu	Port Klang	1400	2300
Fri	Singapore	1400	

PER DTI-NCR PERMIT # 4855, SERIES OF 2005

For booking and reservation please call your travel agent or our preferred sales agents:

- Cruise Shop Plus 439-0360
- GSA Cruises 726-4271 726-0416
- Horizon Travel & Tours 306-1500 521-2586
- Infinite Travel 521-5125 524-6279
- Oltremare Tours 521-7690 521-2829
- Pan-Pacific Travel 243-6666 523-1950
- Rajah Travel 523-8801 524-1276
- Travel Unlimited 844-2561 844-2361
- Uni-Orient Travel 242-5877 243-3888

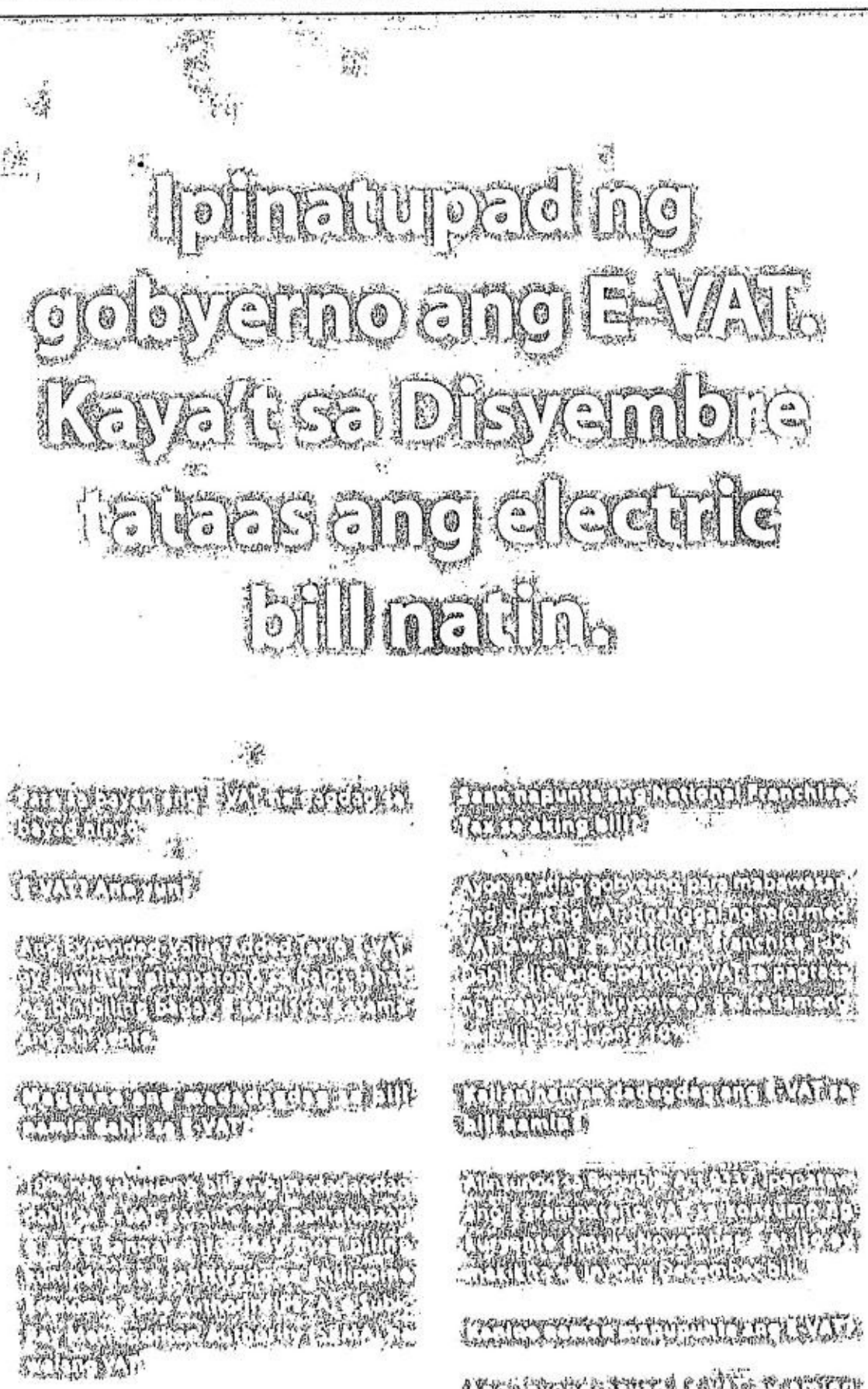
PROVINCIAL

- Destinations Specialists (Cebu) (032) 232-2454 (032) 231-2461
- Cebu Fortune Travel (Cebu) (032) 234-2151 (032) 234-2153
- Grandeasiasia Travel (Davao) (082) 224-2801 (082) 300-5384
- Konstura Travel (Cagayan De Oro) (088) 856-2345 (088) 856-5678

Or you may contact Star Cruises Manila at Tel. Nos. 521-5660 or 526-8401 Fax No. 521-5637
Email at scphils@starcruises.com.ph or visit our website at www.starcruises.com

STAR CRUISES
The Leading Cruise Line in Asia-Pacific

Ipinatupad ng gobyerno ang E-VAT. Kaya't sa Disyembre tataas ang electric bill natin.



	Billing Determinants kWh	Rate	Billed Amount	Applicable VAT
Generation Charge (PhP/kWh)		4.4119	1,470.48	131.64
VAT (net of FBHC and Renewable Energy)*			131.86	
Transmission Charge (PhP/kWh)		0.2845	251.19	24.54
VAT**			24.54	
System Loss Charge (P/kWh)		0.2342	230.62	20.66
VAT***			20.66	
Distribution Charges:				
Distribution Charge (PhP/kWh)		1.1626	350.00	31.50
Supply Charge (PhP/Cust)		0.5271	158.66	15.87
Metering Charges:				
3. Firm, Intra-Regional Grid Cross Subsidy (P/kWh)				
4. Non-Firm, Intra-Regional Grid Cross Subsidy (P/kWh)				
Retail Customer Charge (PhP/Customer/Month)			5.93	0.53
Metering System Charge (PhP/kWh)		0.2429	73.29	7.33
Lifeline Rate Subsidy (PhP/kWh)		0.0758	22.91	2.29
Inter-class Cross Subsidy (PhP/kWh)		(0.4276)	(128.77)	(12.88)
CERA		300 x 13%	41.55	
Power Act Reduction (PhP/kWh)****		301 x -.0017	(50.71)	(4.56)
Local Franchise Tax		2421.61 x 2%		48.15
Sub-total Distribution Charges			481.93	
VAT			43.15	
Universal Charges:				
Missionary Electrification		0.0373	11.23	
Environmental Charge		0.0025	0.75	0
NPC Stranded Debts				
NPC Stranded Contract Costs	0			
PSALM Stranded Contract Costs				
Equalization of Taxes and Royalties				
Sub-Total Universal Charges		0.0373	11.98	
Current Month Bill			2,423.66	
TOTAL VAT			220.32	220.32
TOTAL AMOUNT DUE			2,643.81	

Data Used:
MERALCO's July 2005 Bill to Residential Consumer

* VAT calculation for Generation Charge was net of the PhP.0025/kWh FBHC and only 89.51% of the Net Generation Charge was subject to VAT as this represents the vatable non-renewable energy sources portion of the generation charge (the mix considered all the kWh purchases from NPC and all IPPs of MERALCO for the month of May 2005).

** VAT on TRANSCO charge was based on the ancillary portion and non-ancillary portion of the total transmission charge and utilized the estimated non-renewable portion of 90% for the ancillary charge as used in the calculation for TRANSCO.

*** VAT on System Loss was based on the combined vatable portions of TRANSCO and GENCO charges.

**** VAT on Power Act Reduction was based on the 82% non-renewable energy source used in the calculation of NPC VAT.

Ilang bahagi lamang ng inyong Meralco Bill ang papatungan ng VAT.

MERALCO

Beijing orders probe of huge toxic spill on river

HARBIN, CHINA—THE CHINESE GOVernment sent a team of investigators on Friday to the northeastern city of Harbin as residents endured a third day without tap water after a massive toxic spill contaminated the region's main river.

"The presence of disciplinary officials in the team indicates punishments of irresponsible acts are on the way," the official Xinhua news agency reported.

Officials in Harbin said they expected a highly toxic 80-km slick on the Songhua river to flow past the city of nine million, the capital of Heilongjiang province, by Saturday.

An explosion 12 days ago at a petrochemical factory upstream poured an estimated 100 tonnes of benzene and other poisonous substances into the Songhua, from which Harbin pumps its water.

The city's water company turned off the taps at midnight on Tuesday, leaving residents to get by on stockpiled reserves and bottled water.

CHINESE soldiers in protective clothing transfer bags of activated carbon used in water filtration works at a water processing plant in the city of Harbin, Nov. 25 AP

The China Youth Daily said on Friday that shortly after the Nov. 13 blast, environmental protection officials had released water from a reservoir into the Songhua in an attempt to dilute the toxic spill but opted not to warn the public about it.

Toxins in the river flowing through Harbin on Friday were more than 30 times above officially acceptable levels, but experts said the poisons should be diluted downstream where the Songhua converges with other rivers.

In Russia, there were growing fears the Songhua would bring devastating pollution into Russia's river system and threaten the Siberian city of Khabarovsk (population 1.5 million).

In the southwestern municipality of Chongqing, home to 32 million people, an explosion at a chemical plant this week forced the evacuation of 6,000 riverside residents amid fears of benzene contamination, the Southern Metropolis Daily reported.

Environmental protection officials went from house to house in Dianjiang county warning residents not to use water from a nearby river, the daily said. Two schools had suspended classes.

Back in the northeast, frantic efforts were under way to reduce the effects of the spillage, now officially categorized as a "major water pollution incident."

Two reservoirs upstream discharged large volumes of water into the river to dilute the slick, the Harbin city government website said. City workers used picks and axes to break up ice so as to speed up the water flow and carry the pollution away.

Soldiers and paramilitary police worked at water plants to install charcoal filters that can more effectively absorb nitrobenzene, the main pollutant, it said.

The local government website said Harbin had stored 7,150 tonnes of safe water and asked neighboring cities to stop trucking in bottled water. Xinhua said water supplies in Harbin itself could resume partially as early as Sunday.

The dominant sentiment in the city seemed to be grumpy resignation, not panic or outright anger at the government.

"If I wanted to get angry, there'd be a lot more to be angry about," said Sun Haifeng, an unemployed driver clutching an empty bucket and queueing for water.

"At least this time we've been told what to do. The government has controlled the prices of bottled water and is giving us this," Sun said.

Most residents continued to work, shops and restaurants were open and media said 10,000 police were patrolling the streets.

Local hospitals had stockpiled antidotes to benzene-related poisoning, Xinhua said. Officials warned residents to be on the lookout for symptoms of benzene poisoning, which can cause anemia, other blood disorders and kidney and liver damage.

China's State Environmental Protection Administration has rejected accusations that local authorities had waited too long before telling residents or Russia about the pollution.

The Songhua runs into Russian territory several hundred kilometers downstream, and Russia's environmental watchdog said it expected the pollution to arrive there on Tuesday or Wednesday, and to reach the water collection points for Khabarovsk City on Dec 4-5.

The environmental group WWF-Russia issued a statement on Friday saying that it was highly likely that benzol, a substance it described as extremely toxic and carcinogenic, was among the substances dumped into the Songhua. *Reuters*

ACT SINCE 1981
Banawe, Quezon City
LIBIS • ANGELES • OLONGAPO • GILMORE • ALABANG • SM STA. MESA
NOW OPEN! ACT - ALABANG FESTIVAL SUPERMALL 850-2515
OPEN EVERYDAY!
HOME SERVICE FOR BIG SCREEN TV's
AUTHORIZED DISTRIBUTOR & INSTALLER
CALL: (02) 363-1650
OPEN FOR FRANCHISE! CALL TINA (02) 3869661

Over 98 percent of Somali girls undergo genital mutilation—UN

NAIROBI—THE UNITED NATIONS CHILdren's Fund (Unicef) said here Thursday that more than 98 percent of girls in Somalia undergo female genital cutting.

In a statement, the UN agency said community empowerment holds the key to ending the practice of Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C) in Somalia, a traditional practice blamed for the spread of HIV/AIDS.

Somalia has one of the highest prevalence rates of FGM/C in the world with more than 98 percent of Somali girls between the ages of 7 to 12 being cut, said Unicef Somalia representative, Christian Baislev-Olesen.

The statement comes as the Unicef launched its global report, Changing A Harmful Social Convention: Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting.

"This report demonstrates that with a better understanding of why of FGM/C persists, we can work with communities to end this practice. And we believe this can be achieved within one generation," Baislev-Olesen noted.

Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting—in all its forms—is a harmful practice because it violates a range of human rights, including the right to life, the right to health, the right to freedom from discrimination and physical and mental violence, injury or abuse, said Unicef.

The procedure involves the total removal of the clitoris, labia minora and severing of the inner side of the labia majora; often without the use of anesthesia.

Mediterranean diet seen good for the heart

NEW YORK—EATING A MEDITERRANEAN-style diet for three months can reduce the risk of heart disease by 15 percent, a new study shows.

The heart-healthy effects of the Mediterranean diet—rich in whole grains, fruits, vegetables, nuts and fish and olive oil and light on red meat—are well documented, Dr. Denis Lairon of the Faculty of Medicine Timone in Marseille, France and colleagues note in the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition. But just one other study has looked at what happens when healthy people are actually put on a Mediterranean-style diet.

To investigate, the researchers assigned 212 men and women at moderate risk for heart disease to eat a Mediterranean diet or a standard low-fat diet for three months. Participants on the Mediterranean diet were instructed to eat fish four times a week and red meat only once a week. Men were allowed two glasses of red wine daily, while women were limited to one.

Recommendations for people on the low-fat diet were to eat poultry rather than beef, pork and other mammal meats; eat fish two or three times a week; stay away from animal products rich in saturated fat; and eat fruit and vegetables, low-fat dairy products, and vegetable oils.

Among people on the Mediterranean diet, total cholesterol dropped by 7.5 percent, and it fell by 4.5 percent in the low-fat diet group. Based on this reduction, the researchers write, overall cardiovascular risk fell 15 percent with the Mediterranean diet and 9 percent with the low fat diet. *Reuters*

More than 2 TIMES stronger kaya faster than other brands.
Up to 5 TIMES longer relief.
Kaya 1 TIME gamutan lang ang extra-tindi na pangangasim.
NEW!
Aluminum Hydroxide
Magnesium Hydroxide
Simethicone
Kremil - S®
Extra Strength
Pag extra-tindi ang pangangasim.
Also available
Aluminum Hydroxide
Magnesium Hydroxide
Simethicone
Kremil - S®
Regular Strength
Para sa ordinaryong pangangasim.
If symptoms persist, consult your doctor.
*Independent comparison versus regular antacid tablets

ISSN 0116-2642 INQUIRER Vol. 19 No. 352

Email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: http://www.inq7.net

OPINION

Text us your feedback: inquirer opi name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.

Publisher ISAGANI YAMBOT
Editor in Chief LETTY JIMENEZ-MAGSANOC
Managing Editor JOSE MA. D. NOLASCO
Associate Editor ABELARDO S. ULANDAY
Associate Editor for Readership ROSARIO A. GARCELLANO
News Editor ARTEMIO T. ENGRACIA JR. • *Chief, News Day Desk* NILO B. PAUROM
Opinion Editor JORGE V. ARUTA
National Editor PERGENTINO B. BANDAYREL JR.
Senior Desk Editor JUAN V. SARMIENTO JR.
Editorial Consultant AMANDO DORONILA
Chief Photographer ERNIE U. SARMIENTO
Art & Design Director LYNETT A. VILLARIBA

Board Chairman MARIXI R. PRIETO
President ALEXANDRA PRIETO-ROMUALDEZ
Executive Vice President DAVID O. VALDES
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing RENATO R. REINOSO
VP for Advertising FELIPE R. OLARTE
AVP for Circulation GLORIA P. LARDIZABAL

Readers' Advocate LORNA KALAW TIROL
readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph
Tel. No. 897-8808, Loc. 342; Cell Phone No. 0917-805-7412

All rights reserved. Except as permitted by law, no part of the Philippine Daily Inquirer may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means stored in a database or retrieval system without its prior written permission.

A massacre

LIKE WHAT THE FAMOUS REFRAIN FROM THAT old ditty says, planting rice has never been fun. Especially if you were the farmer mistaken for a communist insurgent, and a platoon of soldiers has been sent to kill you.

That, in essence, is what happened at about 5 a.m. on Monday, Nov. 21, in sleepy Barangay San Agustin, a "village of coconut plantations and rice fields" about eight kilometers from the center of Palo town, in Leyte.

EDITORIAL

A group of farmers (46 in all, including four women) had converged on a farm the night before, to prepare for a "Balik-Uma," a return-to-farming activity organized by a multipurpose cooperative, the following day. According to the spokesperson of a farmers' NGO familiar with the preparations: "These farmers were supposed to start their first day of tilling the lands given to them by the Department of Agrarian Reform as farmer-beneficiaries."

They didn't even get the chance; in fact, they never had a chance.

As one survivor has recounted, a group of soldiers (later established to be from the 19th Infantry Brigade, of the 802nd Infantry Battalion) descended on the farm as dawn broke. Without warning, they started shooting and lobbing grenades.

According to Richard Margallo, the chair of the cooperative and an elected member of the barangay council, the farmers started shouting, telling the soldiers they were unarmed civilians. But the firing continued. The soldiers entered the barn where many farmers had taken refuge. "We were told to lie face down, then they stepped on our bodies," Margallo said.

The soldiers searched the barn and found nothing. Then, Margallo said, one soldier entered and emptied a sack that contained some firearms, including homemade shotguns and an M16 assault rifle. "They said the guns were ours. But we only had bolos and the three hand tractors," Margallo said.

When the smoke cleared, seven farmers lay dead, including two women. (One of them was seven months pregnant.) Ten other farmers were wounded, including Margallo, who sustained two injuries.

But the military officers involved said the entire operation was a legitimate encounter. The battalion commander, Col. Pablo Fernando, said the victims were "active members of the NPA."

He said his men "were acting on information that there was a group of armed individuals within the vicinity." And when they approached the farm, they came under fire. "We just responded," he said. The 19 soldiers involved in the operation were led by Lt. Adrian Luel Benedicto.

Lt. Col. Jefferson Omandam, speaking on behalf of the AFP's Central Command, said the officers on the ground believed the alleged rebels were in that part of Palo town to recruit new members. "If they were farmers, how come our men were able to recover firearms and not farming equipment from them?" he asked.

But Margallo said they had in fact three hand tractors with them, as well as their traditional bolos. "We are not NPA. We are civilians. There was no encounter."

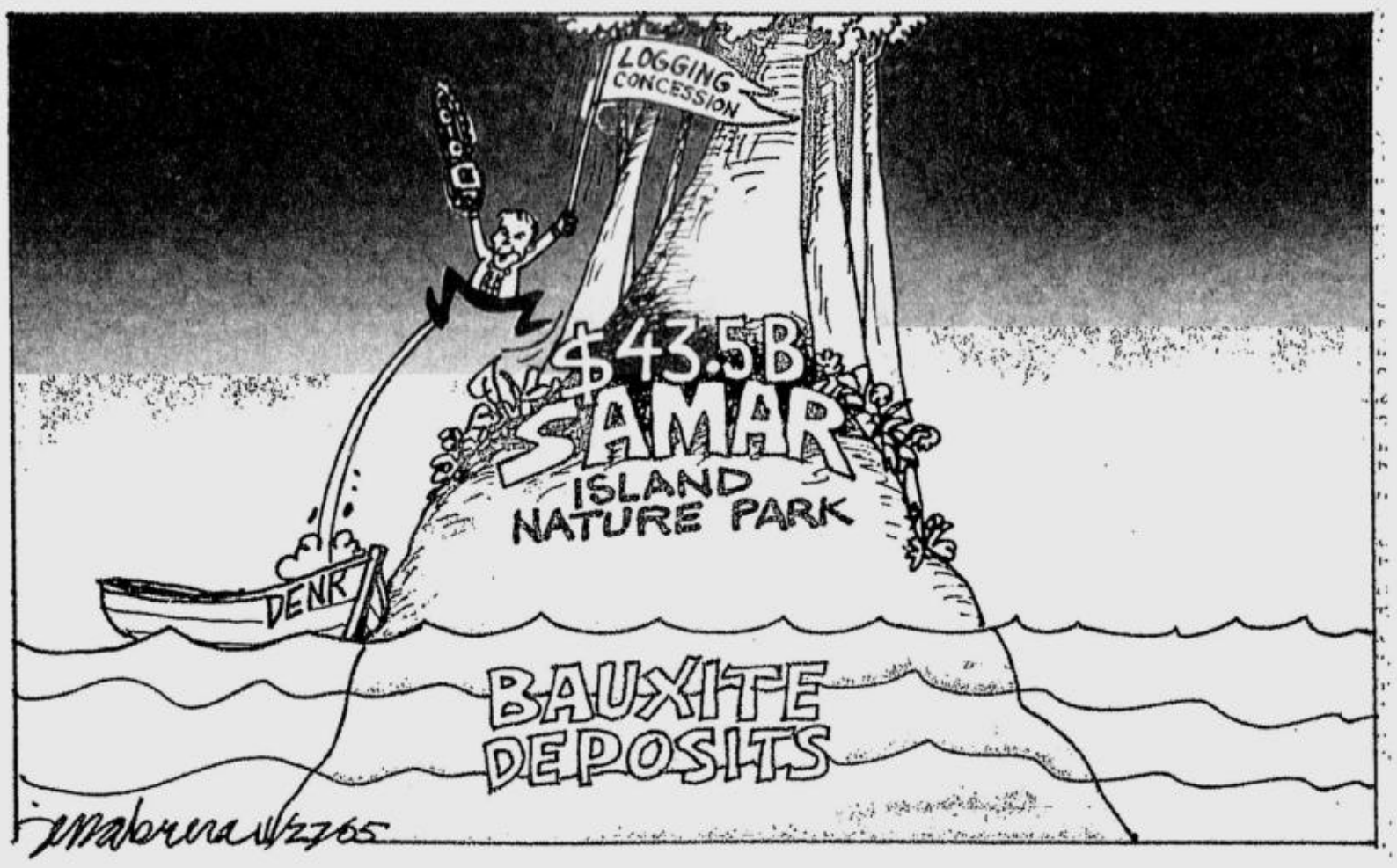
This seems like a classic case of he-said, she-said—but only if we leave out the context entirely.

In the first place, the village had never been a hotbed of the communist insurgency. A "shocked" Teodoro Sevilla, mayor of Palo, said there were no NPA members or supporters in the village. "That barangay has been identified as an agrarian reform community. That is why I was surprised when I was informed that the military tagged it as an encounter," Sevilla said.

Also, less than two days before the military operation, the AFP's Central Command suffered its worst setback in a year, when an NPA ambush, using prohibited land mines, killed nine soldiers and wounded 20 others. An immediate retaliation, on the most available target of opportunity, could only have been tactically compelling.

Not least, but perhaps most fatal of all, many of the Palo farmers were members of the leftist Bayan Muna party-list group. Dozens of the party's members have been slain in mysterious circumstances; add the assassinations of other leftist activists, and it seems clear that, while our post-Marcos Constitution invited underground groups to seek their place in the democratic sun, some prefer to disinvite them.

The Commission on Human Rights has launched an investigation into the Palo incident. We believe they will conclude that last Monday's tragic event was not an encounter, but a massacre.



The tragedy of Andres Bonifacio

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

LET ME EXPRESS THESE NON-HISTORIAN'S thoughts about a patriot of our land whose birth anniversary we shall celebrate this coming Wednesday. It is an official holiday declared by law in his honor as Bonifacio Day.

Andres Bonifacio was the unknown *indio* who organized and led the Katipunan that was to ignite the Philippine Revolution of 1896 and ultimately free this country from Spanish rule after more than three centuries of oppression. That enslavement might have continued indefinitely (probably up to now, considering the tribulation we patiently endured during the ordeal of martial law), if he had not chosen to defy the alien tyrant in his impregnable citadel.

Bonifacio was not known as a civic leader and did not belong to the principalia of middle-class educated natives that included among its members Jose Rizal and other propagandists. He joined the Liga Filipina but was not prominently active in it. He was a private person with a secret dream and consuming passion: to form the Kataastaasan at Kagalanggalang na Katipunan ng manga Anak ng Bayan. It was a task in which he excelled and succeeded as an efficient organizer and a dedicated plotter.

I think it was the historian Teodoro Agoncillo who disagreed with the popular notion that as between Bonifacio and Rizal, it was the former who was the realist and the latter the idealist. Agoncillo held the opposite view, with which I humbly concur.

Bonifacio was the idealist because he believed the Katipuneros would win despite their limited resources because they were fired by the spirit of liberty. Rizal, who was more practical, argued that an appeal to reason and justice was sharper than the Filipinos' rusted bolos against the Spanish artillery that he challenged with the Noli and the Fili.

Both of them, to their everlasting credit, died for their convictions. It is regrettable, though, that while Rizal's execution inspired the nation to great sacrifices in their fight for freedom, Bonifacio's death did not attract similar sentiments. He was killed in a secluded place away from the now hallowed field where Rizal was felled. And to deepen Bonifacio's tragedy, it created little interest among the people he had died to help make free.

It is a sad but unavoidable assessment that for all his achievements in forming the Katipunan that began with a small group of patriots until it swelled into an avenging nation, Bonifacio was less successful as a soldier on the field of battle. Let us note, but not derisively, that his military record was less than impressive, unlike that of the former school teacher from Kawit who became a better general.

Emilio Aguinaldo's skirmishes against the Spanish forces catapulted him to national prominence and potential leadership in the fight for independence. Soon people were comparing him with, and even against, the Supremo of the Katipunan. The man who shouted the historic Cry of Pugad Lawin on Aug. 26, 1896, was now facing a formidable rival for the leadership of the Revolution. Bonifacio was to lose that final fight.

To the military shortcomings of Bonifacio must be added his lack of political acumen. This was demonstrated when he agreed to go to Cavite for what turned out to be a showdown between him and Aguinaldo. Bonifacio might have proposed that the meeting be held in his native Manila, which was after all the capital of the country, or if this was impractical, at least a neutral place. Instead he willingly went to his rival's bailiwick, where his followers were outnumbered by Aguinaldo's *comprovincianos*.

Aguinaldo was elected president of the new government to replace the Katipunan, and Bonifacio, the erstwhile acknowledged leader of the Revolution, was demoted to a mere member of the Cabinet. Outwitted and outflanked, Bonifacio refused to recognize the election and angrily marched away with his followers. His defiance was considered treasonous by a special military tribunal that sentenced him to death.

Aguinaldo reportedly commuted the sentence but later restored the original penalty upon the advice, or pressure, of some generals. It was unceremoniously carried out on May 10, 1897, and Andres Bonifacio died, like Rizal, and in his own words, "without seeing the dawn."

When the United States took over our country while our forebears were still savoring that elusive dawn, the new rulers had to choose for our national hero between Jose Rizal and Andres Bonifacio. They opted for Rizal as the man of peace in preference to Bonifacio whose tempestuous nature might start another revolution, this time against them.

It was a wise choice for there is no denying the magnificent role Rizal played in the winning of our freedom. But his selection did not diminish the greatness of Andres Bonifacio, who stands equally tall with him among the heroes of our race.

Advent, now

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THE STORY IS TOLD ABOUT A PRIEST WHO instructed a boy to keep his grandfather from sleeping during his homily, and he would receive P50 every Sunday as a reward. The next three Sundays went fine, as the boy did his job of waking up his grandfather every time he dozed off. But one Sunday morning, the old man was sleeping and even snoring all throughout the homily to the embarrassment of the priest. When asked what happened, the boy answered that his grandfather had promised to give him P100 if he stopped disturbing him in his sleep during the homily.

* * *

In today's Gospel (Mk. 13, 33-37) the Lord urges us, on this first Sunday of Advent to be watchful and to be alert for we do not know when the Lord of the house is coming. We are all aware that we will die someday. This should wake us up from our lethargy (even during the liturgy!). The prospect of death should disturb us, but all too often, we let worldly pursuits and concerns daze and anesthetize us. Many of us go through life with the motto: Life is good. Do not disturb.

* * *

We received a sad news last Nov. 18 that Fr. Patricio de los Reyes, SVD, one of our 135 Filipino missionaries working abroad, was attacked by thieves at the provincialate in Francistown, Botswana. He was struck on the head with an axe and suffered multiple cuts and fractures on the skull. He is now in the ICU, but already out of danger after a six-and-half-hour operation. According to reports, Father Pat, who is the provincial superior of SVD Botswana, heard the barking of dogs about 11 p.m. He went out to check, and that was when he was hit. Thank God, Father Pat survived, but the message is clear: Death can come, literally, like a thief in the night.

* * *

My classmate, Fr. Charlie Cruz, SVD has died. Death came at 3:30 p.m., in the hour of great mercy, last Nov. 21, the Feast of the Presentation. I believe that as he presented himself before the Creator, this humble, soft-spoken and patient priest was welcomed by the Father with a loving embrace and hug, and with the words "Well done!" He is the second in our class of 15 to go to the great beyond. The first one was Fr. Mario Estorba, SVD who was shot by people connected with illegal logging which he was fighting in Mindanao.

Whether by way of peaceful sleep or by way of a bullet, for sure, for all of us, death will come. I pray that when that time does come, we all will hear from the Father the words: "Well done!"

* * *

I can't help but be edified by the life my classmate lived. This was a priest who really loved the priesthood, the Society of the Divine Word and the Church as shown by his writings and by what people are saying about him. This was a priest who was a real father to his flock. According to Fr. Roland Ruben, SVD, who took over his parish in Togo, the people really loved and would never forget Father Charlie for his kindness and availability. "He was a good missionary." In his last years, he was a spiritual director to our seminarians to whom he offered real friendship, presence and love. He did not have the training or great ideas about formation, but he was there. He was available. He cared, he was really concerned, he was a father who made present the Heavenly Father. For Father Charlie, that was all that mattered.

* * *

These past six years, during which Father Charlie had to undergo dialysis three times a week, have been one big advent for him. He knew that death was at his doorsteps, and he called each new day a "bonus." He looked at his sufferings as his silent offering, that's why he never indulged in self-pity or complaints. He was aware that he was a "burden" to others due to his sickness, that's why he did his best to help and serve others in whatever way, to wherever he was called. Preparation and reparation with joyful hope and humble expectation. Isn't that what advent is all about? Isn't that what life is all about?

* * *

"Life is a series of 'hello's and 'goodbyes,' of separating and hopefully meeting again. Courage. We are pilgrims journeying towards home." Thus wrote Father Charlie in one of his journals. Advent should remind us of home. Our home is heaven, where the Father awaits us. He has given all of us a homing device. Let us not shut it off. He has shown us the way home—Jesus, the way, the truth, and the life. Let us follow him, and we will not lose the way, we will not indulge in lies, and we will not die until we are dead.

* * *

Please consider my latest book "Inquirer Moments, Cycle B (Reflections on the Sunday Gospel)" as a possible gift to friends this Christmas. It sells at P100 each. The proceeds will be used to help our missionaries and spread the Word. Available at National Bookstore and in our office (7217457).

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, help me to live a life of preparation and reparation with joyful hope and humble expectation. Amen.

'Mabuhay!'

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

THERE'S a short but meaningful explanation of the term *Mabuhay!* which I found in one of the back issues of a Philippine Airlines magazine published by Eastgate Publishing Corporation. It reads: "*Mabuhay* is a Filipino verb in the form of a command—'Live'! It is also a wish: 'May you live!' Whoever says it wishes you the great gift of a long and full life. It is both a blessing and a lusty cheer. *Mabuhay* is such a large word that it lends itself to a wide number of secondary uses: welcome, congratulations, thanks, godspeed, hello, good luck, cheers, posit, sante, viva, kambei, aloha and many other expressions of goodwill. All these are part of life; but it is the gift of life that makes them possible. *Mabuhay* , in other words, is an invocation and a celebration of life itself."

Somehow, I am reminded of comments made by a classmate of mine who attended Command and General staff training in the United Kingdom in the early '70s. In those days, we used to send officers to various schools abroad for advanced studies. The United Kingdom was one of those countries. At any rate, he noted that during social activities with his British counterparts, the after-dinner toasts were always accompanied by a round of "cheers" just before drinking.

When he came home, he realized that on many occasions, Filipinos also used "cheers" in raising their glasses to toast an event during the gathering. He felt it was odd that having such a beautiful native term like *Mabuhay*, we had to resort to the use of "cheers." He urged all of us to adopt the practice of using *Mabuhay* because it held so many meaningful ideas and thoughts as mentioned above. And it was our own. Ever since, I have always used *Mabuhay* for greetings and after dinner toasts, and I hope all Filipinos also adopt the practice.

* * *

Today marks the formal opening ceremonies for the 23rd SEA Games. It is the third time for the Philippines to host this biennial event since it began in 1959 although the Philippines and Indonesia became members of the SEA Games Federation only in 1977. Over 5,000 athletes from 11 participating countries will be competing for 441 gold medals. The largest contingent—892 strong—will be fielded by the Philippines, while the smallest will be the East Timor group of 29 athletes and officials. In between, we have Thailand with 780, Indonesia—779, Singapore—658, Vietnam—652, Malaysia—613; Myanmar—456, Brunei—271, Cambodia—108, and Laos—102. This gives you an idea of the great interest generated in the region by the Games.

While this is the third time for the Philippines to host the Games, the overall championship has eluded us all these years. In 2003, Vietnam hosted the Games for the first time and immediately won the overall championship. For a country that had been at war for so many years, the victory was a tribute to the discipline, dedication and hard work of its people.

Incidentally, almost half of the Philippine contingent are soldiers from the Armed Forces and personnel of the Philippine National Police. They are competing in such sports as boxing, cycling, volleyball, sailing, softball, track and field. Perhaps this is true not just for the Philippines but for many of the developing countries around the world. The discipline and regimentation often found in military organizations are a key element in the development of athletes and national sports programs.

Let us hope and pray that this year will be a banner year for the Filipino athlete in the SEA Games. To all the participants—*Mabuhay*!

* * *

Next Wednesday is the 142nd birth anniversary of Andres Bonifacio, the Father of the Katipunan, the secret society that led the revolt against Spain. In the past, there was some confusion as to the correct designation of the day. It used to be celebrated as National Heroes Day, but now it is more accurately commemorated as Bonifacio Day.

Recently, an American friend gifted me with a book on Bonifacio: "Supremo, the Story of Andres Bonifacio," by Sylvia Mendez Ventura.

One of the more interesting chapters in the book has to do with the death of Bonifacio. After a court martial in Maragondon, Cavite in 1895 had found the Bonifacio brothers guilty of "contriving to overthrow the revolutionary government," the judge decreed capital punishment for Andres and Procopio Bonifacio, "each of them to be shot in an open place, up to five shots each."

One version of Bonifacio's execution tells that a Major Lazaro Makapagal took the brothers to Mount Buntis. With four other soldiers, he escorted them to a concealed area then opened a sealed letter which he read to them. The letter was an order of execution signed by Gen. Mariano Noriel. Then, both brothers were shot.

Another version tells how the younger Procopio, only 18 years old, was ordered to walk into the woods and then shot to death. As for Andres, he tried to run away but was caught and also shot down. He was 34 years old. There are some questions about this version since it was known that Andres was a sick man who could not have had the strength to make a dash for freedom. Two other accounts tell of Bonifacio being hacked to death with bolos and bayonets.

Bonifacio's remains were kept in the National Museum, but during the Battle for Manila in 1945, they were lost during the fierce bombardment of the city. "But wherever his ashes may be, he sleeps beneath the land he loved so well, even though, as the poet says, it is the 'sleep of wounded pride'."

Sound and fury

REBEL WITHOUT A CLUE

Patricia Evangelista

I'M SITTING IN MY BOARDING HOUSE IN UP WITH MY housemate's spoiled brat of a cat bawling in my ear. My earphones are blaring out Bonnie Tyler's "I Need a Hero," but the shrieking is still making my eyeballs feel like they're about to pop out. Tonight, I'm suggesting cat soup for dinner.

In March, I'll be one of the many ecstatic graduates of the University of the Philippines, that is, assuming my abysmal performance in Spanish class will shift from *que horror* to *muy bien*, and that my thesis will magically expand to longer than the five paragraphs I've completed so far.

I've been answering the same question I'm assuming every soon-to-be graduate is asking—what's next?

What's next? I answer it flippantly, with a grin. What's next? Save the world, I say. Marry Prince William, write the Great Filipino Novel, wake up at noon every day and read romance novels till the crack of dawn.

But I've been obsessing for the longest time. I'm affected—many will say afflicted—with the same condition many college kids have had since they invented campuses: idealism.

Idealism is a difficult thing to live with, especially in 21st-century Philippines. There is corruption in the ranks of government. The President is being accused of cheating, and then counters with the accusation that all who oppose her are enemies of the state. There is abject poverty in much of the country, and the death of a provincial journalist is considered just another occupational hazard.

It's dangerously easy to lose hope. I've seen a lot of adults shaking their heads and saying this generation is worse than before—apathetic, irresponsible and selfish.

The activists decry the apathy. Rally, they tell us. Fight the system. Don't settle. Don't be one of them.

I think it's a huge assumption to claim that there is only one way to fight.

One of my professors said that a student who questions activism is an embarrassment to UP. There is a right, she said, and a wrong. To question that right and wrong is a ridiculous postmodernist concept. She said that those who oppose activism live with a false consciousness of reality. The language she used was harsher but mostly difficult to translate into English.

For someone who lives by the principle that dissent and questioning are vital in a democracy, I find it odd that she finds being questioned offensive.

I'm not a political science major. I know very little about the dynamics of politics and will be the first to claim that my reading is limited to the Bestseller section of a bookstore. Maybe, this is the reason I shy away from claiming that my point of view is the only right view. But I find it strange for people to accuse others that they have a false understanding of reality just because theirs is different. It's just as ridiculous as Muslim fundamentalists claiming all Christians deserve to die because we believe in the wrong God.

Maybe, changing the world doesn't always come only with raised fists or dramatic confrontations. Change has been going on for so long all over the country, only people don't notice. We have Filipinos who decided to stay here and rough it out. There are young doctors and teachers who do the best they can with limited resources, college grads that wait it out in call centers while still trying to go further. The Manny Pacquiaos and Jed Madelas have done much for our image and have given us much hope.

Everywhere, there are organizations that work from the grassroots to uplift conditions in the face of political turmoil. Take Gawad Kalinga. House after house, slum after slum, it changes lives and gives opportunities to people who would otherwise be mired in poverty. Thousands of volunteers from Mindanao to Luzon have picked up either shovel or wallet to help in the war against poverty.

In the United Kingdom, in Australia, in America, development did not come from government handouts. It came from the private sector deciding that they needed everyone to succeed to enjoy their own success. Here today, we have corporations like HSBC, Smart, Globe, Ayala and many more jumping into the wagon of corporate social responsibility. There's a reason to hope, and other ways to fight.

A strong republic isn't one that just has a strong leader—although that's important. I believe as much in punishing those who are declared guilty by the rule of law. A strong republic is one that has strong individuals carrying their burdens as best as they can. Criticize the government, go ahead, but do something about it, too. There's nothing wrong with activism, but it doesn't entitle activists to look down at everyone else for choosing different paths.

I'm not an activist in the sense that I don't rally in the street and picket along Mendiola. For me, when you're out on the streets rallying, when you're rebelling against a wrong, it's simple to believe something is being done because you're doing something. There are times when activism is the only way, but there are also times when other ways can make more difference.

In 1986, it was activism that brought down a tyranny and gave my generation a legend to grow up with. I do not condemn activism; I respect it. It is that respect that leads me to question how it is used today. Someone once told me that today's hard line activists are giving activism a bad name.

Two days ago, as I was rushing up to class, I met one of my professors pacing the hallway. He said the academic staff was in front of the Oblation rallying for 10 years of back pay. Yet my professor was there in front of our classroom, a solitary old gentleman in a baseball cap, reporting for duty because he promised us a lecture.

Many of the professors I love and respect can command salaries in other countries that can buy them much more than tired leather shoes and faded polo shirts. But they're still in UP, still teaching class, still passing on their love for art, for literature and for science in the hope that they may be investing in the nation's future.

If you ask me what I want to do when I graduate, I'll say I'm not sure. I'll probably make mistakes, but I want to help, and I believe in the country. It sounds trite and clichéd—but that's why some people are called idealists. They hold on to a dream.

I still believe in activism—and when I believe the cause is great enough and that there is no other means, I expect I'll be out there in the streets, too.

In the meantime, the cat is still bawling away, but he's been doing that for so long I've become deaf to the noise.

* * *

Send comments to pat.evangelista@gmail.com

Postcards from Phnom Penh

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

THERE'S A LARGE INTERNATIONAL PRESENCE in Cambodia, though by now the international peacekeepers and observers have been replaced by business folk and development workers. While investors and traders stay in three-star hotels in Phnom Penh, international NGOs seem to congregate at the Goldiana Hotel, judging from the number of "NGO types" hanging out in the lobby, or else conducting impromptu consultations in the small coffee shop.

I had been contracted by Unifem Southeast Asia to conduct a one-day workshop for Cambodian media to familiarize them with gender issues and with Cedaw, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, which Unifem—with funding from the Canadian International Development Agency—is trying to strengthen in the region.

The workshop design was fairly straightforward, but the language gap promised to complicate matters. Fortunately, the workshop organizer, Chea Phalline of the Cambodian Ministry of Information, was able to arrange for simultaneous interpretation. I don't know how much was "lost in translation" between me and the participants—about 30 print, radio and TV journalists, most of whom could communicate only in Khmer. But I think we avoided confusion by following the cardinal rule: speak slowly and clearly.

As the small group reports proved, regardless of nationality, you could always count on journalists to be irreverent and cynical. As I told the participants, they couldn't really expect to be transformed into a gender champion after a day-long workshop, but at least they would be more conscious afterwards of assumptions, stereotypes and clichés about gender roles that might have crept into their reporting and analysis.

* * *

I HAD promised myself after my last visit to Phnom Penh in 1997 that the next time I was in Cambodia, I would make time and set aside funds for a visit to the ruins of Angkor Wat in Siem Reap.

Angkor Wat is certainly Cambodia's prime tourist attraction, and friends who've visited it wax rhapsodic about the awe-inspiring structures set in the middle of a tropical jungle.

But I ran out of time to arrange a side trip to Siem Reap, and as it turned out, I saw even less of Phnom Penh on this four-day visit. About the only bit of local color I was able to absorb was during lunch at a restaurant serving Khmer and Thai specialties. Like many commercial structures in the city, it was located in what looked like a former mansion in the French colonial style. Waiters in floor-length skirts padded about on their bare feet, while the fragrance of frangipani and orchids permeated the air. It was a welcome, quiet interlude in the midst of a busy day, and while I had to struggle to make a dent on my meal of fried fish with tamarind sauce, green mango salad and rice with salted fish paste (*bagoong*), it was still a most relaxing experience.

The reason I couldn't find time for sight-seeing was a rude awakening on my second day, when I slipped and fell in the bathroom while I was showering. I grabbed the shower head when I lost my footing, but when this, too, came off the wall, I landed outside the tub, on the bathroom floor. I remember landing on my back and not being able to stop my head from snapping back and hitting the tile floor. Gingerly, I sat up and patted my head to look for cuts or blood. Finding none, I checked for broken limbs or sprains. When I was finally able to stand up, the thought that raced through my mind was thankfulness—considering that so many things could have gone wrong.

* * *

AFTER REQUESTING the front desk for a bag of ice for my head, I called up the Unifem office and requested that they refer me to an English-speaking doctor. But I had to attend a meeting first with the staff and Chea Phalline before I could make my way to the Naga Clinic, which offers the services of English-speaking physicians and staff.

So that was the extent of my Phnom Penh tour: a consultation (for which I paid $30) with a Cambodian doctor who checked for signs of concussion, tested my reflexes and blood pressure (not bad for a middle-aged, exercise-deficient *matrona*), and told me the soreness and spasms in my neck and shoulders were caused not by the fall but by my lack of physical exertion. It was almost a letdown when all he prescribed for me was a pain killer and anti-inflammatory medication. Then again, what did I want? A body cast and a brain operation?

When I told my friends Joy and Guido Delgado about the mishap, especially how it had given me a rude reminder of my mortality, they nodded and agreed that, indeed, "you know neither the time nor the day" when your number gets called. For now, I'm just grateful the time of reckoning didn't come while I was in a city I barely knew, among strangers, far from home. Gratitude is called for!

* * *

A STREET race between two late-model cars comes to an abrupt halt when one car smashes through the front wall of a school for Buddhist monks. The driver of the damaged car turns out to be the son of an air force general, who explained that "my son is naughty" when asked about the teen's escapade. The other driver, it turns out, is the son of another senior government official.

"The high-speed crash is the latest in a series of car wrecks caused by government officials or their fast-driving offspring," said The Cambodia Daily. While no one was apparently hurt in the high-speed crash, several other pedestrians, including a prominent leader of the disabled, were killed in previous road mishaps involving prominent personalities.

Spoiled and irresponsible children of government officials in a poor country dependent on foreign aid—just another reason why Cambodia seems so much like home.

Open wounds

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

MY DAUGHTER KARA ASKED ME THE OTHER day, "Papa, do you know what happened in Barrio Mapaniqui, Candaba on Nov. 23, 1944?" A documentary she has been researching on Filipino "comfort women" has led her to this little village in Pampanga. From her interviews, she has learned that the residents of this place suffered some of the most barbaric and humiliating experiences in World War II. "But that's an old issue," I replied, without answering her question. None of the history books she consulted contain any specific reference to Candaba or to that fateful November day in 1944.

An old woman, Lola Januaria, vividly recounts the events of that day. "It was early morning—maybe around 5—when the Japanese began to shell the town. We went down from our huts and lay face down on the ground. Then, the Japanese soldiers came and herded everyone into the school building. The men were separated from the women and children. We were all made to squat."

What happened next defies the imagination. The soldiers made the men strip in front of their horrified families and randomly picked some of them. Then they drew their swords and swiftly cut their penises. They collected the severed parts and stuffed them like cigars into the mouths of these men—rolling in laughter at the bizarre scene. The other soldiers quickly joined in the mood of this orgy of cruelty. They sliced the buttocks of the other men and slapped these on the faces of their victims. They ended this unspeakable ritual of terror by shooting all the men and burning the entire schoolhouse.

They then turned to the women and the young girls, about a hundred of whom were brought at different times to a place that came to be known as the "red house." Lola Apang was 17, had been married for a year, and was five months pregnant. She and two other women were taken by Japanese soldiers to the "red house" and repeatedly raped.

Lola Apang and her baby survived the war. Today, one of her granddaughters works as an entertainer in Japan. Hers is not an uncommon story in this sleepy town of migratory birds and long stretches of rice fields. Regular remittances from Japan-based workers have funded many of Candaba's impressive middle-class homes. Traces of the war cannot be discerned from the town's prosperous façade. The pain is lodged in the private memories of old women who cannot forget or forgive.

Japan has consistently refused to acknowledge the existence of war-time "comfort women." Beyond issuing perfunctory apologies for general atrocities committed during the war, it has not recognized the crimes committed by its soldiers. This general apology seems sufficient to us Filipinos. Somewhere in Pampanga, we have even allowed a memorial to rise in honor of the Japanese Kamikaze pilots. Thousands of our women work as entertainers in Japanese bars and nightclubs. If this is not a normalization of relations with a former aggressor, what else might it be? Japan insists it has long atoned and paid for the destruction it caused during the war. Its officials point to the millions they gave in war reparation.

Although they are too young to have any personal memories of the war, China's students, in contrast, have not forgotten. Every year, in massive demonstrations in the major cities of Beijing and Shanghai, they tell the Japanese government they will continue to remember until Japan, by its present actions, disowns its militaristic past. Memories of Japanese war atrocities in China are carried across generations and kept alive through children's textbooks. Some Japanese commentators interpret this collective remembering as an aspect of the shrewd geopolitics of China. But an alternative view is that China's policy is an ethical one of remembering, paid as a forward tribute to a future without war.

Is there an "Ethics of memory," asks the Jewish philosopher Avishai Margalit in a book by this title. "Are we obligated to remember people and events from the past? If we are, what is the nature of this obligation? Are remembering and forgetting proper subjects of moral praise or blame? Who are the 'we' who may be obligated to remember: the collective 'we,' or some distributive sense of 'we' that puts the obligation to remember on each and every member of the collective?"

The old women of Mapaniqui in Candaba continue to bear the pain of remembering, but perhaps the greater tragedy is that our government has left them alone to deal with their unhealed wounds. Our collective "we" appears to have moved on in its accustomed amnesia, totally unburdened by the past, even as the personal "we" stubbornly remembers. In Lola Apang's case, the open wound is relieved for the first time when her granddaughter working in Japan returns to Candaba for a visit and hears the story of what happened in Mapaniqui on Nov. 23. It is a painful moment of awakening for the young woman, who has to go back to Japan. Tomorrow's (Nov. 28) "I-Witness" episode on GMA-7 puts faces to this ironic twist.

In the last five years, another grandmother, Lola Pilar, has traveled all over Japan to bring the story of comfort women to a generation that is too young to know what happened during the war. But as if to mock these efforts, somewhere in the red-light district of Nagoya, a young Filipino pimp sings the sad refrain of a conquered nation that remained poor: "During the war the Japanese came to our country and took our women. Today we ourselves send them to Japan to work as modern comfort women."

We must by all means bury our resentments. But we must not forget, or mock the memory of those events that have made us who we are.

* * *

Comments to public.lives@gmail.com

The INQUIRER is a member of the PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE
The National Association of Philippine Newspapers

TALK of the TOWN

Please send feedback to jsarmiento@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

PDI PHOTO

PERSPECTIVE ON CURRENT SITUATION

'We must talk to each other again'

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO SURVIVED AN ATTEMPT to impeach her, but 58 percent of Filipinos still want her to resign, according to results of a nationwide survey conducted by Pulse Asia Inc. last month. Only 35 percent want Ms Arroyo to stay in Malacañang.

"A majority of Filipinos continue to favor the President's resignation because they distrust her and believe that the 2004 presidential election was rigged," said Ana Tabunda, Pulse Asia executive director. The President has denied stealing the polls.

Despite this sentiment, street protests calling for the President's resignation have failed to muster the numbers that made Edsa I and II successful. Multi-sectoral alliances against Ms Arroyo have been formed to no avail.

Are Filipinos getting tired of using people power to replace a sitting President for the third time since 1986? It appears so.

In the meantime, the political standoff continues. What will happen next, nobody knows.

Christian Monsod is suggesting that Filipinos take a longer view, strengthen institutions and start talking to each other again so "we can get the government and country we deserve."

By Christian S. Monsod

EVEN BEFORE THE "GARCI" TAPES burst into the public's consciousness in June, the Arroyo administration was suffering from declining approval ratings. Thus, the Garci tapes controversy was heaven-sent to the opposition, the ideological Left and a segment of the middle forces increasingly disillusioned with the administration. It provided what to them was an issue that could force the resignation of the President by generating public outrage, or by encouraging the military to interfere as it did in 2001, for her involvement in election cheating.

The crisis is perceived to be a crisis of national leadership and of damaged institutions, particularly of the electoral process as represented by the Commission on Elections (Comelec). To some, it is an even bigger problem—that of a social order that is so irreparably damaged that only revolutionary change could correct it.

We must still be in a crisis today, given the proliferation of prescriptions. It is a crisis that may have reached its apex on July 8 when the Hyatt 10, former President Cory Aquino, the Liberal Party, Makati Business Club and others thought they could give the coup de grace to a president who was ready to fall. But the gambit turned out to be a miscalculation.

Why July 8 gambit failed

First. The military chose to be neutral. The July 8 group thought the military would react in the same way [as in the 2001 people power]. But the military seems to be learning its lessons well—that undue interference with civilian processes damages democratic institutions and weakens democracy over the long run, even if it may bring short-term political relief. The aftermath of the hair-splitting 2001 Supreme Court decision is still a divisive element in our country today. We cannot afford another such event without permanently damaging the democratic institutions of elections and of the presidency.

Second. The Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) chose to issue moral guidelines rather than engage in political activism. The CBCP only had to recall that, except for one or two of them, the bishops did not see fraud in their dioceses of a magnitude as to affect the outcome of the 2004 elections. For the bishops to reverse that collective finding without hard evidence would be engaging in personality politics. At most, the tapes could prove there was cheating, but not necessarily that the real results were different. Legitimacy is at the core of most calls for the President's resignation.

Third. The great majority of local government officials chose to support the President. Like it or not, local autonomy is beginning to work and many local officials are comfortable in their working relationship with the President. There are those who ascribe this to patronage politics. That may be in the equation, but I think it is mainly the hands-on management style of the President, which also often gets her into trouble, and her willingness to support local projects and to fully disburse the internal revenue allotment (IRA) to local government units.

Fourth. The July 8 group did not read the signs of the times—the changing paradigm of people power. People power is not dead and does not suffer from fatigue. But the people seem to know ahead of their leaders that their power is more relevant at the community level in making life better for themselves. People power is very much alive at this level, whether making the barangay justice system work and local officials more accountable for the IRA, resisting projects that endanger their environment, taking initiatives in education, even exercising the power to recall local officials.

Have we asked ourselves why local officials on different sides of the Garci tape issue, some even perceived to be dishonest, are unbeatable in their own turf? It's because they deliver basic services to their constituency. The people do care about the moral issue of a cheating president, but they do not seem to think that it is worth the risk of street violence or disruption of their livelihood to take sides in a power dispute among the leadership elite, among equally unattractive alternatives.

Among the conclusions of the Davide Commission, which investigated the failed coup attempts, and which has been validated by the 2005 Philippine Human Development Report, is that people can endure hardship, but not injustice. It seems that people do not see election cheating as a matter of gross injustice. It may only mean that most of the people have different perceptions of the problems and different priorities on what problems to address. That is why the Black and White movement has not taken off. It says that if you do not agree with it on which problem has priority and which solution should be pursued first, then you are black.

There is another lesson to the failed calls for rallies to force the President to resign—that the leadership of people power does not belong to those who want people to follow them unquestioningly in their advocacy. The leadership belongs to those who listen to and align themselves with the deeper longings and the priorities of the people. It's the people who choose their leaders, not those who would anoint themselves as such. That is why Edsa I was so successful and the present calls have so far failed.

Where are we now?

We are in a state of protracted crisis, although the intensity seems to have abated.

The impeachment case was summarily dismissed, buying the President at least 12 months before another impeachment complaint can be initiated. The military is maintaining its neutrality.

There are continuing calls for resignation, e.g. Cory Aquino, and there are continuing calls for the "truth" and closure, e.g. the Jesuit Province, Citizens' Congress for Truth and Accountability (CCTA). The move for constitutional change is being given new life by being offered as an answer to the political impasse.

Cory said: "The only legitimate avenue to evaluate the evidence and to vindicate the President—the impeachment process—was abruptly closed. This has severely impaired her credibility and has made it virtually impossible for her to unite and govern the country effectively."

With apologies to Cory, firstly, the impeachment process is not the only way to get to the truth. Secondly, contrary to the implication that governance is breaking down, the evidence both at the national and, more importantly, at the local government level is the opposite. Thirdly, there is a way out of this mess, toward unity, but it would need a lot of rethinking and openness on priorities and solutions.

The Jesuit Province said: "Those who claim that the rule of law was triumphant in the recent impeachment proceedings confuse proceduralism with law. While it is true that the procedures of law were fulfilled, the spirit of the law was subverted. Evidence was not allowed to emerge."

Path to truth

Many of us probably wished the whole thing were quickly resolved by a finding of guilty in a Senate trial. But we know only too well that the path to the truth is not easy. More often, we have to find the truth piece by piece like a thousand points of light that can so light up the darkness that the whole truth is revealed. But many people do not want to take that path. It is too tedious and time-consuming.

A fact-finding commission with a legal authority from Congress would have been a good first step, but that proposal is dead in the w er. But there are other constitutional venues such as the Ombudsman, a reformed Comelec, Commission on Audit, civil and military courts, academe and media investigations, even collaterally the electoral protest of Loren Legarda [against Vice President Noli de Castro.] But certainly not through a self-appointed body like the CCTA, which is too patently purposive and whose organizers are the same people who told us in July that they already knew the truth.

The allies of the President, notably Speaker Jose de Venecia and former President Fidel Ramos, are offering the alternative of constitutional change with a transitory provision that allows the President to remain up to 2010, but with the last three years as nominal head of state. But changing the Constitution to reduce the President's term is too high a cost to the country. And the reasons to justify it border on intellectual dishonesty.

The argument that the present system of government is mainl sponsible for the poverty is a leap of logic. There are many well-argued studies on why poverty is still with us. None of them directly links poverty to the presidential and unitary system or to a bicameral legislature.

As to certain economic provisions, the factors cited by investors—corruption, infrastructure, government policies and regulatory regime, fiscal prudence and criminality—have nothing to do with the provisions on land, natural resources, public utilities, advertising and media. For all intents and purposes, through legislation, judicial interpretation or decisions of government agencies, the Constitution has proven to be flexible and its doors open to the right kind of foreign investment.

Federalism is being offered as a 10-year transition because even the proponents for charter change do not see a solid economic basis for it and realize the cost, the ivory-tower reasoning and the political risks attendant to it. Many problems being cited to justify it can be solved by legislation and implementation of existing laws.

As they say, not everything old is good, not everything new is better.

More questions

As for the CCTA, if its task is really investigative, it should ask more questions because answers can be limited by the questions asked. Some examples:

- Who really won the 2004 presidential elections? The fact is that the incumbent enjoys the presumption of being a duly elected president given the official canvassing, the various surveys, the findings of the bishops, the assessment of Namfrel, etc. The burden of evidence is on those who claim otherwise. An estimate can be made by counting the votes disputed by the opposition in the official canvassing and by completing the Namfrel count with other copies of election returns, but, realistically, short of recounting all the ballots. There would still be a judgment call at the end.
- Was there cheating in the elections? One cannot conduct an investigation of the premise that only one side cheated. To be credible the CCTA must impose the same accountability standards on all sides. Cheating is not only an impeachable offense, it is a crime.
- Was there a coordinated attempt at destabilization, with other agenda than seeking out the truth, like an unconstitutional grab for power? For example, did those who called for the President's resignation talk to the military to interfere in the process?

It's not true that governance is breaking down. Despite soaring oil prices and political unrest, the macroeconomic indices look good. There is no evidence that basic services at the local level, however inadequate, has been disrupted by "lack of governance."

However, the administration continues to be hampered by reports of corruption. The President is reluctant to assert herself on matters that might alienate her allies. There are also the continued disappearance of Garcillano and perceived overreaction to threats to her political survival. And most important of all, there are no real signs that she is committed to electoral reform.

Where do we want to go?

Let's start with electoral reform and make it a test of the President's commitment and sincerity to reform. Why? Because election is a fundamental building block for a functioning democracy. And because the crisis is rooted in a flawed electoral system that is so tantalizingly vulnerable to manipulation. No politician who is single-minded about winning, and that is almost all of them, can resist that temptation.

Unfortunately, every president after Cory Aquino—Ramos, Estrada and Arroyo—weakened rather than strengthened the electoral process by the quality of their appointments and by the use of institutions, including the military and the police, and of government resources.

Neither does Congress escape responsibility. After all, it did not act responsibly in culling the dishonest and the incompetent from among the presidential nominees or in exercising its oversight functions in the modernization of the electoral system.

The first step in electoral reform is the replacement of Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos. As long as he is there, it is going to be very difficult to begin reforming the system. Aside from the question of integrity, the leadership has a serious problem of incompetence and lack of management skills.

Military intervention

Beyond electoral reform, the people do not want solutions that involve military intervention or anything unconstitutional, like a sweeping revolutionary change with at least 1,000 days of authoritarian rule by self-appointed leaders.

What is our objective? Is it just to remove a dishonorable president without really knowing what happens afterward? The movements to oust the President agree on only one thing but have different ideas on a post-Arroyo scenario. That fixation on the fate of a single person leads to nowhere but continued turmoil.

For the sake of the country, we should listen to the words of the assassinated Archbishop Oscar Romero of El Salvador. "It helps now and then to step back and take the longer view... we plant seeds that one day will grow... we lay foundations that will need further development... we are workers not master builders, we are ministers not messiahs, we are prophets of a future not our own..."

The longer view puts more emphasis on institutions than persons. Study after study show that the large differences in growth between regions in particular and between the Philippines and its neighbors in general are due to government policies and institutions. We, therefore, want to emerge from this crisis with stronger democratic institutions, which in turn breed better leaders and result in a more united citizenry - regardless of what happens to the incumbent president.

The longer view demands the greatest restraint and prudence, and deep reflection on the changing dynamics of people power. We should take it step by painful step toward the "unity we need," putting down our individual pieces in a giant jigsaw puzzle called a nation. As a noted statesman said: patriotism is not the sudden and frenzied outburst of emotion, but the quiet and steady dedication of a lifetime.

How do we go about it?

First. Scrutinize every solution offered to us—that the facts are right and that it considers all the consequences. It must pass the acid test: will it strengthen our democratic institutions? People come and go, but institutions remain. We must beware what precedents we unleash in the name of people power.

POLICEWOMEN form a line to block protesters in Manila. PDI PHOTO

. Make it known to both sides and to the media that we will not tolerate any stretching of the truth.

. There is no silver bullet for solving our problems and no shortcuts in the search for truth. And sincerity is a poor substitute for correctness and accuracy. Moreover, a rush to judgment, like those who say that they have already conducted a trial in the private court of their individual consciences and found the President guilty, is a dangerous precedent for addressing problems. We know that reform and change often take time, that they require the utmost resolve and endurance, and that walking hand in hand with the people is the most sustainable way to get things done.

. We must go back to the people and listen. Under the Arroyo administration, never has civil society been so close to the seat of government since the the Aquino administration. Many civil society concerns were addressed. But we got so used to the effective back-channeling that, in the exuberance of our successes, we forgot where the real power lies—the people. They are telling us something about their aspirations and priorities by their behavior and reactions to what we do.

. Believe that there is a statesman in every politician and it is up to us to find it. Even Marcos refused to send loyal presidential guards to Edsa.

. Believe in the bureaucracy. In 1992, Comelec career officials, even those involved in electoral manipulation during the Marcos regime, asked to be given the chance to prove that they can deliver credible elections, and they kept their word. After the elections, the Comelec central office had a public approval rating of +54. But the field offices, where the elections were actually delivered, got a higher rating. They were proud of themselves and, for a while, we believed that, in the little world of the Comelec, it was possible to reform even the most damaged of institutions. It can happen again, and in every government office. Because there are many honest and competent people in the bureaucracy waiting for their moment of vindication.

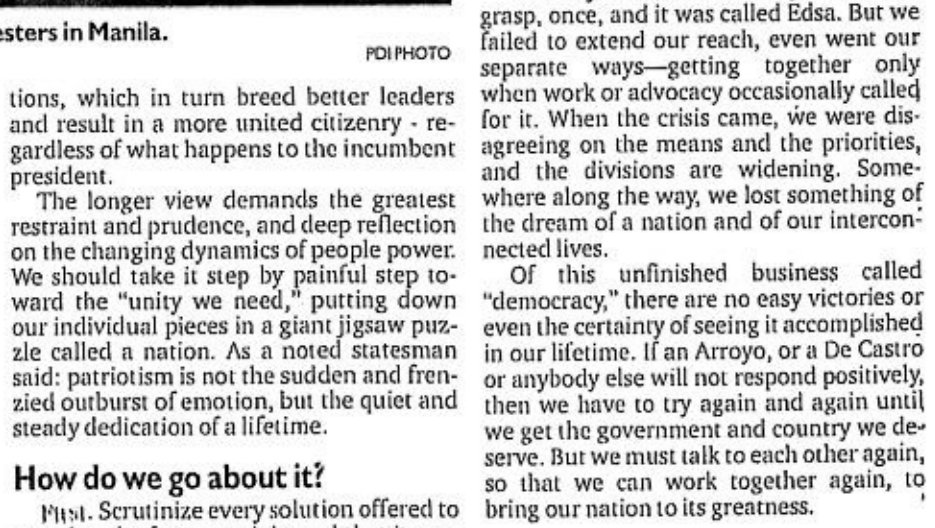
Unfinished business

, we should talk to each other again. The administration and the opposition. The rebels and the government. The Executive and the Legislative. The divided middle forces. The leaders and the people. Because, deep down, we share the same ultimate objective—to build a just society that will endure. Believe in that and the first step toward a solution will have been taken. More often than not, making the journey is half the battle won.

That objective was certainly within our grasp, once, and it was called Edsa. But we failed to extend our reach, even went our separate ways—getting together only when work or advocacy occasionally called for it. When the crisis came, we were disagreeing on the means and the priorities, and the divisions are widening. Somewhere along the way, we lost something of the dream of a nation and of our interconnected lives.

Of this unfinished business called "democracy," there are no easy victories or even the certainty of seeing it accomplished in our lifetime. If an Arroyo, or a De Castro or anybody else will not respond positively, then we have to try again and again until we get the government and country we deserve. But we must talk to each other again, so that we can work together again, to bring our nation to its greatness.

(Abridged version of a speech Monsod delivered at the National Convention of the Catholic Educators Association of the Philippines Alumni Associations on Nov. 5. Monsod is a former Comelec chair and member of the 1986 Constitutional Commission.)



CORY Aquino with (from left) Rep. Rissa Hontiveros, Rep. Crispin Beltran, Sen. Ping Lacson, Bro. Eddie Villanueva, Susan Roces and Bro. Luistro marched on Sept. 6 to press for the impeachment of President Macapagal- Arroyo. PDI PHOTO

NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU
Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
10 Happy Glen Loop, Baguio City
Tel. No. (074)443-9255
Fax No. (074)443-8971
E-mail: inq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

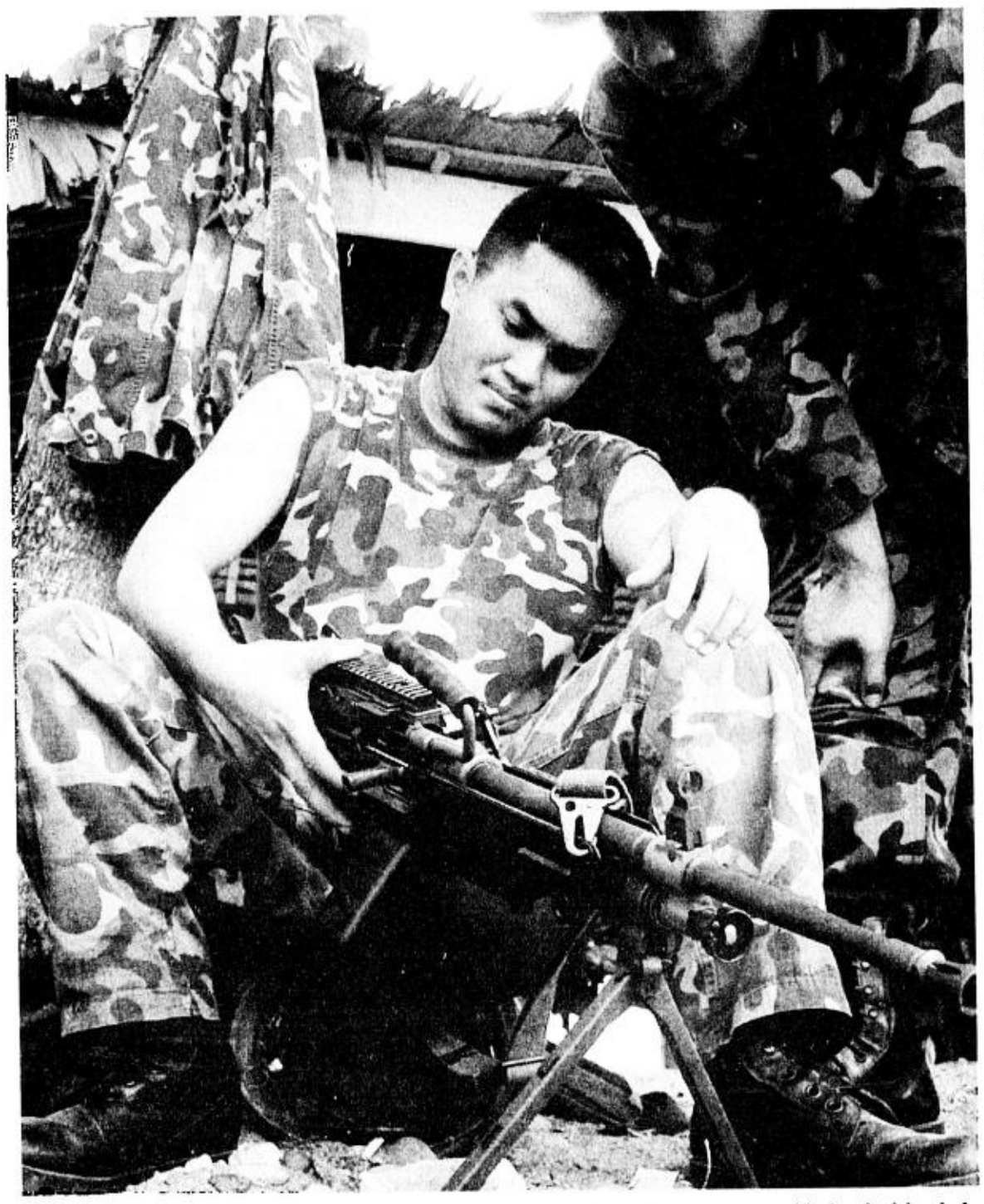
SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU
23 Aurora St., Old Albay District
Legazpi City
Tel. No. (052) 820-8402
Fax No. (052) 820-1274
E-mail: inq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

Across the NATION
E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph
Text us your feedback:
Inquirer atn name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)
Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

VISAYAS BUREAU
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346/233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail: inq_cebu@inquirer.com.ph

MINDANAO BUREAU
FEP Printing Corp. Bldg.
Ma-a Road, Davao City
Tel. No. (082)244-1770 to 71
Fax No. (082)244-1771
E-mail: inq_davao@inquirer.com.ph

Army halts Jolo offensive for evacuees



A PHILIPPINE Marine checks his submachine gun before boarding a Navy transport ship for the island of Jolo to reinforce beleaguered troops on the island. Hundreds of followers of jailed Muslim rebel leader Nur Misuari battled government troops for the second day resulted in the death of 14 soldiers. AP

ZAMBOANGA CITY—THE MILITARY HAS HALTED its operation in Sulu as local government officials rush to attend to the needs of displaced individuals, which has already reached more than 10,000 people, Sulu Gov. Benjamin Loong said yesterday.

The hostilities, which started about two weeks ago, have already caused the death of at least 10 soldiers and more than 40 bandits according to the military.

On Thursday, military planes bombed Mt. Tumatangis in Indanan town, where about 25 bandits were allegedly killed.

But the military bombardment in Sulu have made efforts for peace difficult, according to Tabang Mindanaw.

Tabang Mindanaw is a multisectoral body advocating for peace in Mindanao.

In a statement, Tabang Mindanaw said the "damage the military has caused to peace efforts is incalculable."

The group said the military's pursuit of Abu Sayyaf bandits or terrorists "have later clearly crossed over the boundaries of the (Moro National Liberation Front)."

The MNLF has signed a peace treaty with the government in 1996.

Although most of its officials and members have joined the government, a number of MNLF combatants continues to take up arms against the government, particularly when Moro leader Nur Misuari was arrested and jailed.

Unimaginable

"It is unimaginable that the military establishment really believes this is the way to resolve conflict situations. We have urged the (Office of the Presidential Assist on the Peace Process) to focus, as a priority, on a change in the mindset in the military establishment as part of its work as peace advisor to the President," Tabang Mindanaw said.

Tabang Mindanaw said because of the bombardment and the continued military offensive, there was a "need to reassess the situation and determine what more radical actions may be required at this time."

"Definitely, winning the peace at all costs (not by body count), can never be possible by launching a war," the group said.

In Cotabato City, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) also urged the military to rethink its strategy and completely stop the offensives.

"This is the most sensible first priority to do because prolonging the war will only make the situation worse," Muhammad Ameen, MILF's secretariat chief, said.

The Union of Muslims for Morality and Truth (Ummat), a group of Muslim lawyers, academicians, community leaders and concerned individuals also called on the government to stop the renewed war in Sulu.

"We believe that the current war in Sulu is being used as a mere diversionary tactic to steal public attention from the political and economic crises that threaten to dislodge Mrs. Arroyo from her stolen throne," said Nasser Marohomsalic, head convenor of the Ummat.

"But why don't her think-tanks focus on propeople tactics like scrapping the EVAT, or approving the P125 wage increase, instead of resorting to a destructive tactic such as launching war in Sulu," Marohomsalic said.

In Quezon, the military's Southern Luzon Command has rejected appeals for a ceasefire with communist guerrillas, saying they were only a ploy to protect New People's Army rebels who, an Army official said, were now cornered by government forces.

"If they want to negotiate and talk peace with us, they should first ask the terrorist rebels to lay down their arms and surrender," Lt. Gen. Pedro Cabuay Jr., Solcom chief, told the INQUIRER.

According to the military official, Karapatan officials in Southern Tagalog sent invitation for a dialogue and to "negotiate."

"What's the point of negotiating? The rebels have started this battle, we will finish it for them. My men are now inching closer to them. We will soon get them," Cabuay said.

The military has branded militant leftist groups as legal fronts of the Communist Party of the Philippines, which the militant groups have denied. ***Julie Alipala and Jeoffrey Maitem, PDI Mindanao Bureau with reports from Delfin T. Mallari Jr. and Bobby Q. Labalan, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

NPA confirms it abducted Marine sergeant in farm in Guagua village

GUAGUA, PAMPANGA—THE New People's Army has confirmed that its guerrillas in western Pampanga had abducted a Marine sergeant here on Nov. 23, local officials helping the soldier's family said on Saturday.

The officials said the NPA has sent word to Lilia Oronan, wife of the abducted soldier, TSgt. Marlon Oronan, that the rebels were holding him and that he was still alive.

The officials did not release details on the terms for negotiation or the reason for Oronan's abduction.

Lilia has appealed to the NPA to release her husband whom she said has not committed any wrongdoing.

Oronan was tending to the family's garden in Barangay Pulong Masle here when six armed men took him at 7:15 a.m. on Nov. 23, his two children who witnessed the abduction told police.

He was abducted while on a month-long vacation from his duty with the 6th Marine Battalion based in Lanao del Norte, according to the military's Northern Luzon Command (Nolcom).

Maj. Gen. Romeo Tolentino, Nolcom chief, called the abduction "senseless and brutal" and ruled out negotiation by the military.

Oronan was the second soldier taken by rebels in Pampanga since July.

On July 2, the NPA's Lino Blas Command seized Philippine Air Force Maj. Neptune Elequin in Floridablanca as he was walking to his farm.

It was only on Oct. 24 that the National Democratic Front in Central Luzon confirmed that a rebel squad took Elequin.

Jorge de los Reyes, NDF regional spokesperson, sent signals for the start of the negotiation for the release of Elequin and aired demands for a stop to military operations in the region as a condition.

Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, chief of the Army's 7th Infantry Division, had rejected the demand, offering only safe passage for rebel-held hostages. ***Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

www.dls-csb.edu.ph

De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde
Now Accepting Freshman Applicants
For 1st Trimester, SY 2006-2007

Extended application period
Dec. 3 to Dec. 22, 2005 and Jan. 4 to Feb. 28, 2006

Experience a different learning environment

De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde lets you grow through Christian values formation and educational innovation that focuses on the learner – you! DLS-CSB has the expertise and resources to let you become your best.

Degree Programs offered:

School of Management and Information Technology
- Computer Applications
- Export Management
- Human Resource Management
- Information Management
- Business Management (Night School)
- Marketing Management (Night School)

School of Multidisciplinary Studies
- Consular and Diplomatic Affairs

School of Hotel, Restaurant and Institution Management
- Hotel, Restaurant and Institution Management (Tracks in Culinary Arts, Hospitality Management, and Tourism Management)

School of Design and Arts
- Arts Management
- Dance
  * In consortium with the CCP Dance School of Ballet Philippines
- Fashion Design and Merchandising
- Industrial Design
- Interior Design
  * In consortium with the Philippine School of Interior Design
- Multimedia Arts
- Music Production
- Production Design
- Technical Theater

Scholarships Available

For more information, call:
ADMISSIONS CENTER
Tel. Nos.: 526-7441 to 47
loc. 126; 220; 221
Telefax: 524-8233
Website: www.dls-csb.edu.ph/admissions

De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde
2544 Taft Avenue, Manila, Philippines 1004

Lafayette water tests tagged misleading

SORSOGON CITY—The results of the water analysis conducted by the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources on water samples taken around the Lafayette Philippines Inc. mining area were misleading, an expert environmentalist and biologist said.

The source, who requested not to be identified, said the BFAR tests focused only on mercury, which was negligible in the area.

ONE OF the creeks that had been contaminated by the tailings spill. PDI PHOTO

BFAR conducted water samplings in 11 locations in Rapu-Rapu and Prieto Diaz towns last Nov. 3 and 4.

Based on the test results, freshwater from the villages of Pagcolbon 1 and 2 and Malobago in Rapu-Rapu and seawater from Bacon shore were within the safety limits while freshwater samples from Binosawan 1 and 2 and seawater from Lupi, Prieto Diaz and San Ramon were dangerously high in metal and other toxic contents.

The same results showed that the mercury content of drinking water from Malobago and the goat fish collected from the same barangay were all within the safety limits.

Lafayette's mining operation does not use mercury, and it was normal that the test results would prove that there was no serious mercury contamination in the area, said the expert.

She said Lafayette might use the BFAR test results to refute claims of water contamination in the area.

The test should have concentrated on the presence of the chemicals cadmium, lead and arsenic, which are being used in the mining operation, the expert added.

Sorsogon City Councilor Dave Duran, chair of the Sangguniang Panlunsod committee on environment, said he would ask BFAR to conduct another examination and to focus on the three chemicals mentioned by the expert.

Duran said BFAR should have patience in doing this as it could mean disaster if not given proper attention.

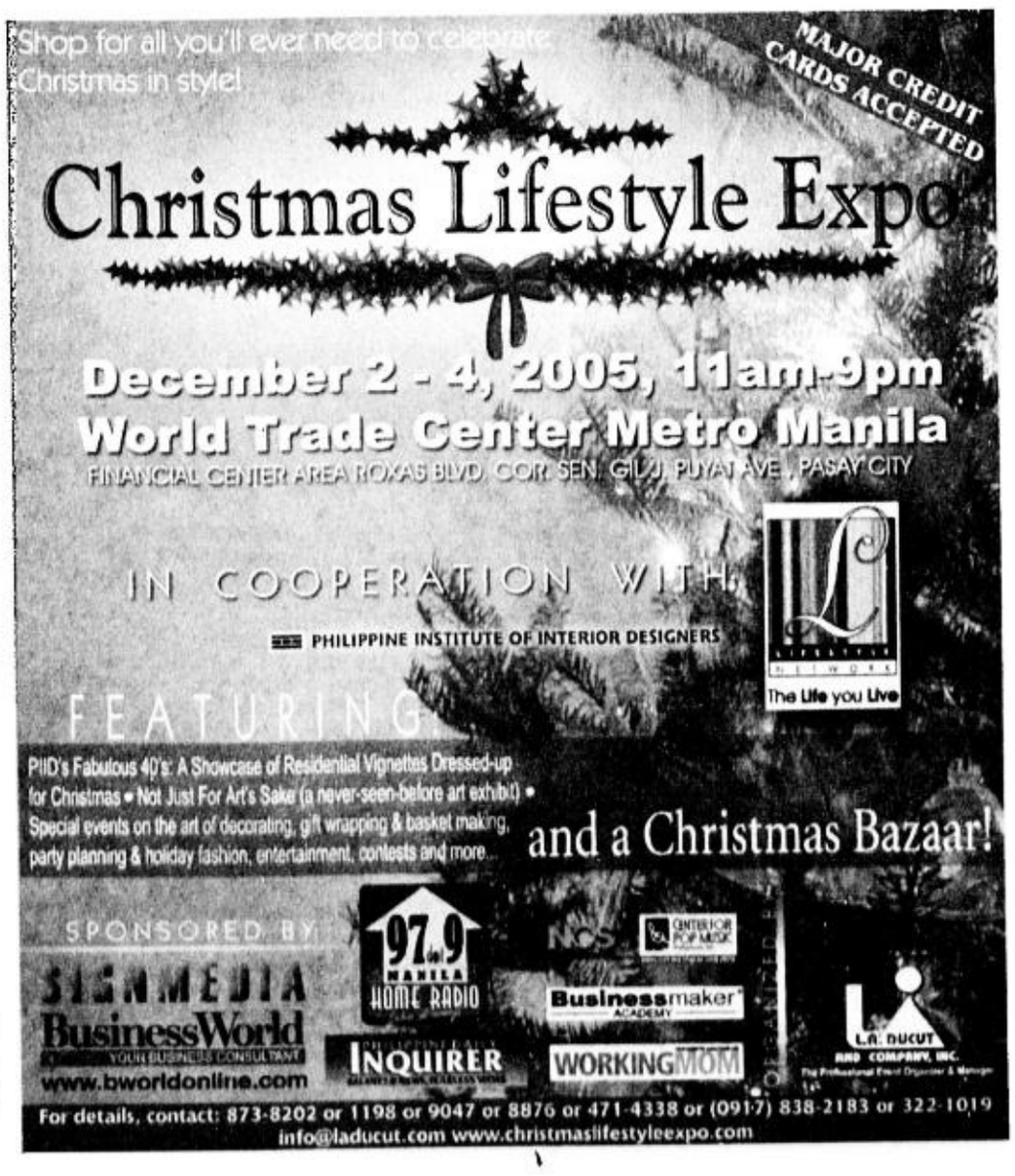
Meanwhile, the League of Mayors of the province is set to meet Environment Secretary Michael Defensor to voice its strong opposition to the continued operation of Lafayette.

League president Mayor Johnny Guysayko said they have received reports of fishermen who had contracted skin diseases and the same were being attributed to the toxic spill from the mining operation.

Prieto Diaz Mayor Benito Doma confirmed such information, saying a number of fishermen had complained to him of having skin diseases.

Lafayette said it has taken steps to make the mining operations in Rapu Rapu, Albay safer.

But an independent fact finding mission received testimony from some mine workers that the spill was no accident. ***Bobby Q. Labalan, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***



Ombudsman plans manual on whistle-blowing, tips

PILI, CAMARINES SUR—THE OFFICE of the Ombudsman will come up with a manual on whistle-blowing next year to guide the government and those who are willing to testify against persons involved in corruption and other wrongdoing, a representative here revealed Tuesday.

Maria Victoria Roberto, of the Office of the Deputy Ombudsman for Luzon, who conducted a focused group discussion (FGD) here, said the manual will contain whistle-blowing strategies and cultural perceptions of exposing graft and corruption.

The FGD is a primary data gathering method involving selected multisectoral representatives who provide the inputs on a single concern through small group discussions.

The inputs are collated accordingly and classified based on their essence.

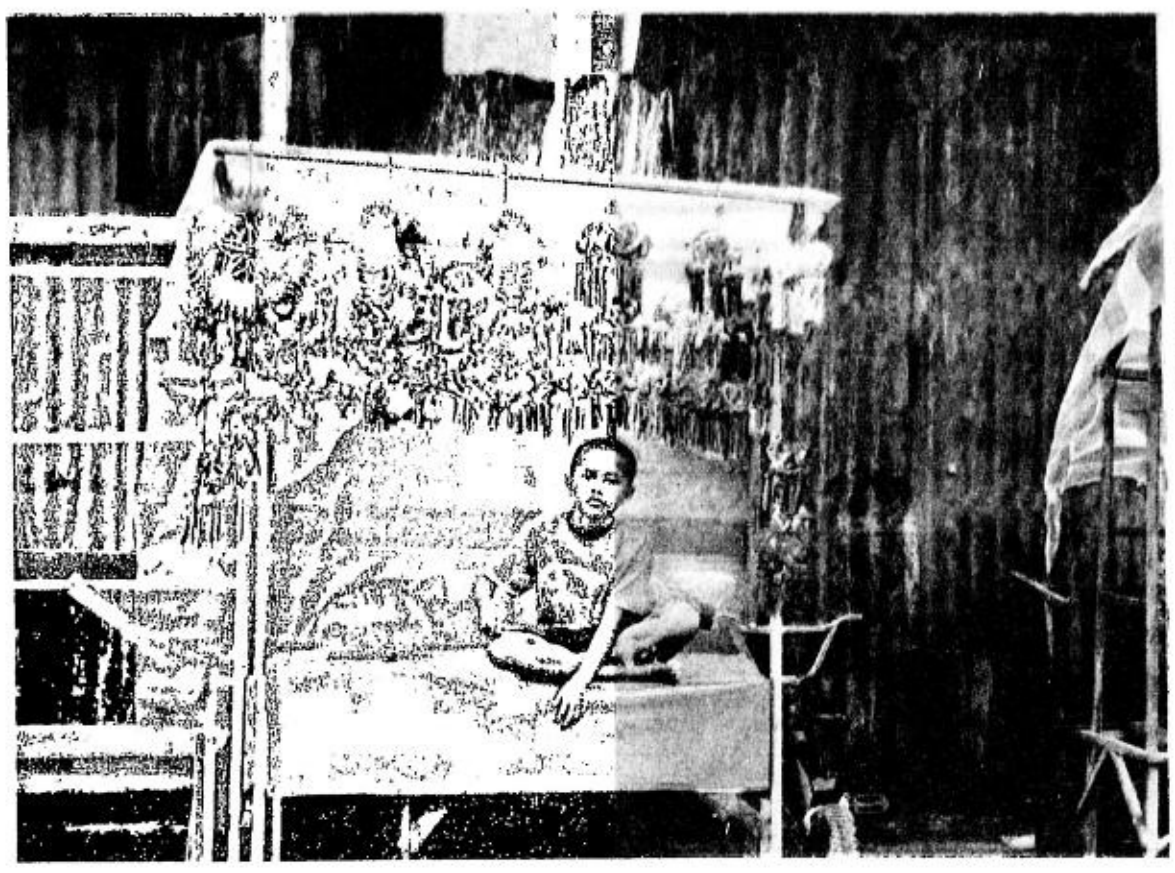
"We are just starting the task of providing the guidelines on whistle-blowing and tipping information regarding graft and corruption because we have no formative rules on it even though there are already initiatives in Congress to pass a law on whistle-blowing," Roberto said.

She said the initiative to support whistle-blowers was started by Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo, who signed on Oct. 13, 2003 a memorandum of agreement with the Province of the Society of Jesus or the Jesuits to conduct an antigraft campaign.

Roberto said that under the agreement, the Office of the Ombudsman and the Jesuits are to conduct continuing seminars on ethical standard called "Ehem! Aha! Cultural Sensitivity."

The Ombudsman representative revealed that in the conduct of seminars in several institutions, many cases of graft and corruption that involved high-ranking officials in government were shared.

But she said the participants who shared the information were hesitant to go through with the burden of exposing their bosses' wrongdoing without mechanisms to protect themselves from reprisals. *Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*



DE ORO FEVER
It looks all set and ready for Cagayan De Oro City residents for the preparation of the holiday season, as vendors start to sell Christmas lanterns and decors in the street.
DENNIS JAY SANTOS/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

Poverty blamed for abuses

BAGUIO CITY—A GROUP OF CORDILLERA women here has condemned the economic crisis which, it said, is the reason women have suffered physical abuse.

In a protest rally that marked the observance of International Day to End Violence Against Women here on Friday, Vernie Diano, secretary general of Innabuyog Gabriela, said "economic violence" has resulted in more sexual and physical abuse of women.

She said women suffer the worst violence if her family experiences poverty and hunger. "The woman is the one who absorbs the blame for all the hardship in the household most of the time," she said.

According to Innabuyog-Gabriela, hunger and poverty can be rooted from an unemployment rate that has reached 13.7 percent, and an inflation rate that has reached 8.4 percent this year.

"For us ordinary Filipino women, these figures simply mean that we can no longer afford, that we are deeply mired in poverty and that our families are hungry. With a low wage of less than P200 a day and no job security to speak of, ordinary women and their families can no longer cope with the hard times," the group said.

Diano said farmers and women who live in remote areas in the provinces receive daily wages of P60-P150. As a result, many women are forced to go abroad to work as maids, she said.

Cynthia Dacanay, former executive director of Cordillera Women's Education and Resource Center (CWERC), said women who work abroad are more prone to abuses and human rights violations.

"Women migrant workers suffer an added burden because of the nature of their jobs, most of them (work as) domestic helpers and entertainers. They are more vulnerable to abuses, especially in the countries where women are discriminated," she said.

Based on a CWERC study titled "Living Tales of Terror: The Hapless Plight of Female Migrant Workers in the Cordillera," 600,000 Filipinos work as maids in 19 countries. Most of these workers are women from the Cordillera.

"It is no wonder why [some dictionaries] define Filipinas as domestic helpers. Hong Kong [hosts] one of the largest populations of Filipino maids [in the world]. [Filipinas] make up 80 percent of the 170,000 maids in Hong Kong and out of this number, Cordillera women comprise the majority," Dacanay said.

She said Filipina entertainers, on the other hand, number 470,000 in five countries. *Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

GenSan forms team to check bird flu

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—THE CITY GOVERNment established the Avian Influenza Task Force (AITF), a body that would respond to any threat posed by the dreaded bird flu virus.

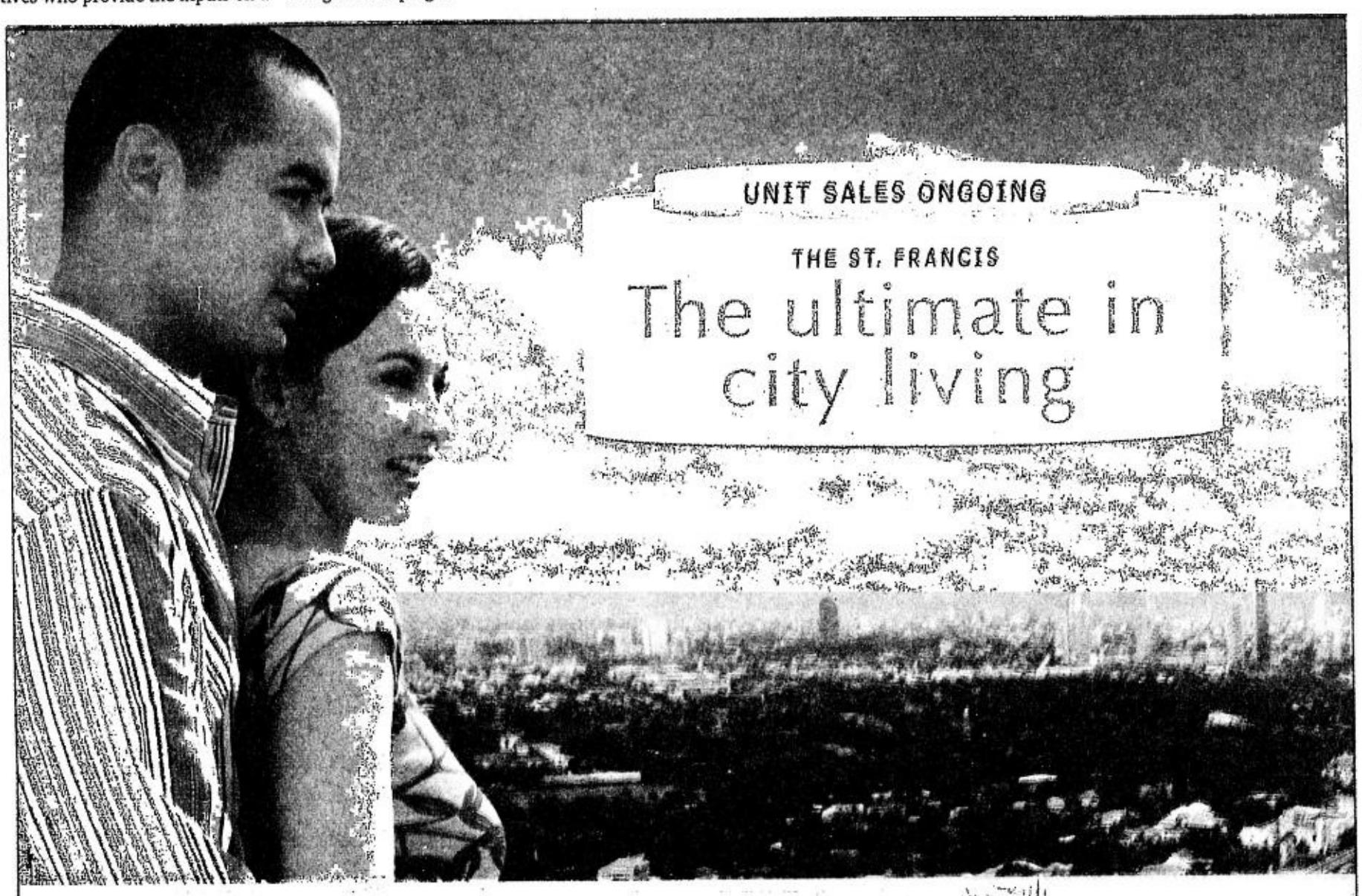
Under the task force, a rapid action team (RAT) was also created.

The team is composed of Dr. Ephraim Marin of the city veterinary office, Dr. Jennifer Bulawan of the Department of Agriculture's satellite laboratory and Dr. Castro Leo Ejercito of the Veterinary Quarantine Service.

Other sub-bodies formed under the AITF were a surveillance team led by Dr. Emilio Gargaran, a quarantine team, an information and education campaign team led by Jose Aponesto of the city public information office and the census team led by Dr. Bernard Bulawan of the city veterinary office.

Mayor Pedro Acharon Jr. has urged the public to immediately report to the city veterinary office any suspected case of bird flu in the city.

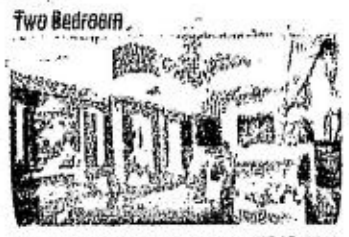
The disease's symptoms include loss of appetite and drastic drop in egg production. *Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



The Kuok Group, renowned developers of The Shang Grand Tower and properties throughout Asia and Australia are redefining the luxury city residence in two unique towers.

A wide choice of units are available, including penthouses, garden duplexes, 1 and 2 bedrooms and studios. The superb facilities range from Clubhouse to swimming pools, jacuzzi, 24-hour convenience store and concierge.

Two Bedroom



The St. Francis combines the Shangri-La tradition of quality with cosmopolitan design for the ultimate in city living.

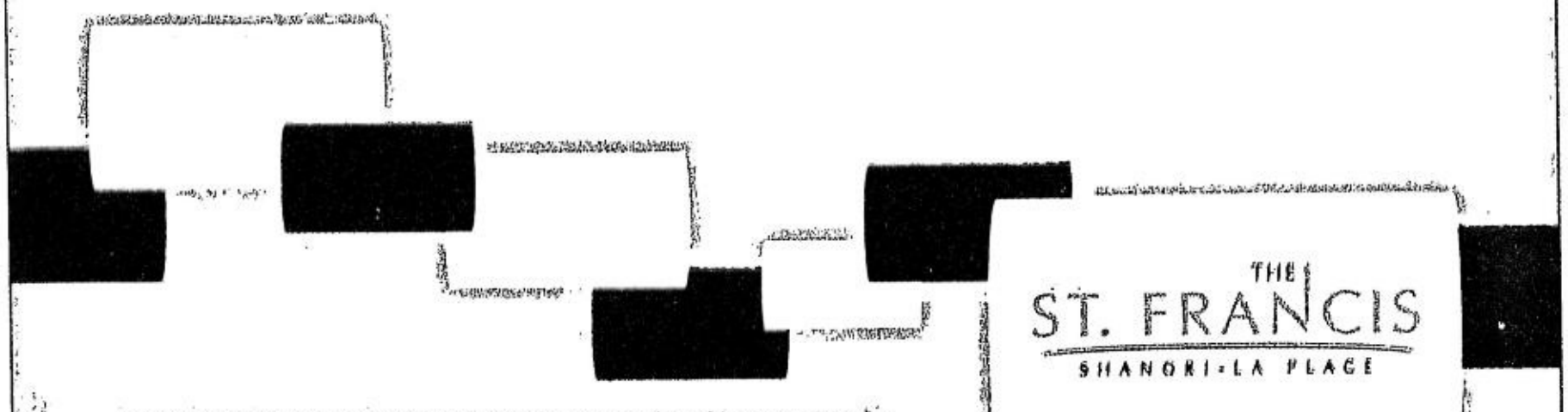
Stylish dining next door at EDSA Shangri-La Hotel

Perfectly located in Shangri-La Place, The St. Francis has link access to Shangri-La Plaza Mall and is connected by an air-conditioned walkway to the EDSA Shangri-La Hotel. The MRT is easily accessed through Shangri-La Plaza Mall.

One Bedroom

Studio

at The St. Francis Towers showroom - Monday to Sunday - right next to the Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Shangri-La Place, EDSA Corner Shaw Boulevard, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City, Philippines
634-8080, 634-8111
634-7756
sales@thestfrancistowers.com



THE ST. FRANCIS
SHANGRI-LA PLACE

A Development of The Shang Grand Tower Corporation.

The particulars, details and visuals shown herein are intended to give a general idea of the project and as such are not to be relied upon as statements of fact. While such particulars and details are based on present plans which have been prepared with utmost care and are presented in good faith, buyers are invited to verify their factual correctness and subsequent changes, if any. The contents herein are subject to change without prior notice and do not constitute part of an offer or contract. HLURB LS#: 13493

INQUIRER Mindanao

E-mail: inq_davao@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Nico A. Alconaba

Ending the violent cycle of 'rido'

A MUSLIM house is abandoned after a clan war that forced villagers to evacuate. AFP

By Ryan D. Rosauro
Tubod, Lanao del Norte

SEVEN MONTHS AGO, FOUR leaders of two warring clans in Nunungan town in Lanao del Norte swore before the Koran and in the presence of military, police and provincial government officials to end an eight-year feud that started with a petty misunderstanding over a business deal.

Amid loud cheers, they signed a peace covenant as their relatives hugged and shook hands with their erstwhile enemies. The parties are neighbors in the tiny and remote Kaludan village, and their case was the 13th of 18 clan conflicts settled in the town since 2004, a rare process initiated by government authorities.

A month before, a young Maranao engineering student in Ozamiz City was killed on his way to school to comply with some academic requisites for graduation. Authorities later learned that the attack was related to an ongoing *rido*, a Maranao term for clan conflict.

Clan conflict is more pronounced in Muslim communities than in other parts of the country, said Abhoud Syed Lingga of the Cotabato-based Institute of Bangsamoro Studies.

International development agencies have taken a keen look at the occurrence and intricacies of *rido* as a phenomenon in Moro society as a useful guide to embarking on peacebuilding initiatives in communities in Mindanao.

Apart from seeking settlement to the Moro secessionist and communist insurgencies, clan conflict presents itself as a lingering challenge to the cause of peace.

A study, jointly funded by the Asia Foundation and US Agency for International Development, documented 1,220 cases of clan conflict since the 1930s, of which just over half were resolved. These are found in Lanao del Norte, Sulu, North Cotabato, Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga del Sur, Zamboanga Sibugay, Basilan, Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao, Tawi-Tawi and Lanao del Sur.

The study also documented 4,512 people killed and some 3,000 injured in varying periods.

Anatomy

Rido, as a fixture of the male-dominated Moro society, is related to the people's deep sense of personal pride and honor. In Maranao, it is referred to as *maratabat*.

Interviewed by journalists in Manila during the presentation of the *rido* study, Prof. Jamail Kamlian of the Mindanao State University explained that if the sense of honor was violated, the aggrieved party could go to the extent of killing someone to alleviate such psychological hurt, no matter the legal implications.

An attack can also invite retribution and the cycle of vengeful violence is perpetrated.

Retribution can happen anywhere. In the particular Nunungan conflict, one person was killed in Subic.

A feud can start from fairly minor matters, but those that have turned bloody and long drawn-out usually arise from dispute over land and political rivalry that pit even fathers against sons.

Apart from being security flash points, village elections spawn political competition among large families for limited electoral seats. The situation can grow into full-blown conflicts, even after the contest is over.

In one forum in Marawi City, an academician involved in the *rido* study proposed to rethink the scheduling of village, local and regional elections in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. Holding these close to each other mean constantly igniting tension among already warring and potential rival families.

Math of conflict

In the heat of any conflict, the closely knit character of Moro families can escalate and widen tension.

Nunungan Mayor Abdul Malik Manamparan explained that every person had maternal and paternal relatives whose pride and honor were also at stake whatever came out of the conflict. Hence, the relatives can be counted into one's force.

The web of families that can be involved is even made more complex when one is married as the paternal and maternal relative of a spouse may also be counted in.

They can also enlist the support of other families not necessarily related to them by blood.

But one set of relatives may also decide and declare noninvolvement. And depending on how this is made, it can have implications on familial relations.

What makes the conflict even bloody is the easy access to guns of families seeking retribution. In a culture that encourages gun ownership as some sort of a status symbol, loose firearms proliferate in Moro areas.

A MUSLIM boy looks from the front door of the family's bullet-riddled house amid a clan war in Bayang town, Lanao del Norte. AFP

FORMER Iligan City Mayor Franklin Quijano, left, pacifies a Muslim father whose son was killed in a clan war in Bayang town. AFP

Social costs

The cycle of violence that these guns underpin has pulled communities hosting *rido* into a continual state of poverty and underdevelopment.

The conflicts have led to burning of houses and destruction of farms.

One farmer in Nunungan, whose family was involved in a *rido*, said he had since tended a farm in another town "away from our enemies" for fear of being marked for killing. The same fear has left vast tracts of fertile agricultural fields unused, reducing, if not completely losing, the people's opportunity to earn income.

Lanao del Norte Gov. Imelda Dimaporo related that a number of road projects in the town were also constantly derailed because of the intensity of clan conflicts. Nunungan is a beneficiary of a focused program promoting high-value vegetables.

In the longer term, clan conflict also infuses social discord. If not settled, enmity can last for generations, polarizing residents in a community.

Blood money

The cost of resolving a conflict is economically exacting. Blood money is a basic requirement to assuage an injured pride and to pay for actual cost of damage inflicted on properties.

In raising blood money, families can incur debts or have to sell properties.

In quantifying the monetary settlement, the warring parties first confer with each other which of the deaths are attributable to *rido*, whether it was either of them who killed so-and-so, and whether the acts of property destruction were related to the conflict.

Money values are then assigned to the dead relatives and destroyed properties. This process becomes contentious when the person killed had a high status in the community. In the Nunungan *rido*, the dead were worth P100,000 each.

One party's claim is then offset against another to determine which has a liability balance. When every detail has been ironed out, they agree on the schedule of holding a public ceremony to announce the settlement to the community.

Usually, the party who started the conflict throws a feast. In some instances, prominent people assume the responsibility of bringing in the parties to settle.

In the settlement of *rido*, mutual friends and neutral relatives play very significant roles, most especially if they include personalities whom the parties respect.

Most of the parties or their relatives do not seek help from authorities as they still maintain strong affinity with traditional ones. This is especially true among those living in remote Moro communities who do not have a strong of belongingness to mainstream society because of government neglect. Add to this the effects of secessionist politicization.

This should explain why it is rare that a *rido* is prosecuted under the formal justice system.

Local government

In Nunungan, the *rido* settlements were initiated by local government leaders led by Manamparan.

Insp. Jose Patalinghug Jr., then the town's police chief who grew up in the area, said the residents themselves brought the matter to them during the village-level participatory public safety planning workshops conducted by the police.

The people said they had been persistently bugged by the conflict that started in 1980, the oldest so far in the town.

In every settlement, Patalinghug said, they saw to it that public officials witnessed the ceremony so that the parties became used to them and hopefully would reach out to them when similar conflicts arose.

To date, Patalinghug, who is now assigned in Tubod, is proud to relate not one of the conflict settlements have failed. He stressed the importance of education in transforming the culture of *rido* and of religion in instilling the morals of nonviolence.

The warring parties themselves have implored that "... anyone of us who revive the feud which is already settled will be subjected to harsh punishment by the Almighty Allah ..."

IECEP MEETING THE GLOBAL CHALLENGE
DEC 01, 2005 (THURSDAY)
M/S PHILIPPINES
MANILA HOTEL

7:30 – 8:30 am Registration/Breakfast with PRC & BECE
8:30 – 9:00 Opening Ceremonies
Invocation
National Anthem
Welcome Address
Introduction of the Guest Speaker
Hon. Avelina A. De La Rea
Commissioner, PRC
9:00 – 10:00 "Let's 3G with ZTE"
Loren Xiao, Tech Mgr for 3G Technologies, ZTE
10:00 – 11:00 "APC's Infrastruxure: The On-Demand Data Center Architecture"
Norberto Avila Jr., Product Manager, APC ISX
11:00 – 12:00 "NERA Corporate Presentation" & "Digital TV Broadcasting"
Engr. Nimfa T. Mariano, SVP/Country Manager, NERA, Philippines
Joseph M. Rebolledo, Sr Business Segment Mgr for TMN, NERA, Philippines
12:00 – 1:30 Luncheon Seminar with PLDT
1:30 – 2:15 "LCD Technology"
Russer Cabrera, Product Manager, EPSON Multimedia Projectors
2:15 – 3:15 "Third Generation Mobile Communications"
Mr. Leo Adriano, Product Manager, Ericsson
3:30 – 4:00 BREAK
4:00 – 5:00 Updates on Telecommunications Regulations
Engr. Edgardo V. Cabarios
President, IECEP
Director, Common Carrier Authorization Department, NTC
5:00 – 6:00 Presentation of Nominees for the Election of IECEP Directors
Engr. Fernando C. Morales, Chairman on Elections
6:00 – 11:00 Annual General Meeting and IECEP Night

The 55th Annual IECEP CONVENTION
DEC 1, 2005
MANILA HOTEL

PLDT BUSINESS SOLUTIONS
APC Legendary Reliability* ERICSSON NERA ZTE中兴
NOKIA Globe QUEST EPSON EXCEED YOUR VISION CONVERGYS Outthinking Outdoing
INQUIRER DCM25 COMPUTERWORLD
SYKES MAGIS Manila Hotel MARKETS

REGISTER NOW! Registation for first 100 Php 1,000 only! Regular Registration Php 2,000
Fill out form and fax to 6871676. Call 6877187 and look for Gina for more details.

YES! I'm going to the 55th Annual IECEP Convention!
Name _____
Company _____
Tel No _____ Mobile No _____ Signature _____

INQUIRER Publishing Goal

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER 1985 20 PLATINUM ANNIVERSARY

What adjective best describes you? Choose all that apply. Not what you would generally consider, but to be honest.

Find the answer to the question in the highlighted letters above. Highlighted letters may be used more than once. Text in your answer to 29768* for SMART, Globe, and Sun Cellular subscribers and get a chance to win in the weekly or grand draws!

*To join, initially send **PDI<space>20<space>answer<space>name/address/age/gender** to **29768**. Ex.: **PDI 20 ANSWER Jonah Imperial/#1 Paco St., Makati/22/F.** For succeeding answers, the registered subscriber simply sends **PDI<space>20<space>answer** to **29768**. Each entry sent is P2.50. Each participant is allowed a maximum of 3 entries per day.

Prizes at stake:
Weekly Prize: One (1) Winner – P 20,000 in Cash
Grand Prize: One (1) Winner – P 200,000 in Cash
Note: The 20% tax on prizes exceeding P10,000 will be shouldered by the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

INQUIRER

See print ads and flyers for complete details.

Promo runs from July 17 to December 3, 2005. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4227, Series of 2005

RESIDENTS of Candelaria watch as a military armored personnel carrier passes through the town's *poblacion* in search of communist guerrillas. DELFIN MALLARI/PDI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

AFP, NPA blame each other for evacuation

LUCENA CITY—WITH THE HIGH NUMBER of civilian evacuees escaping from the gun battle between government forces and New People's Army rebels in the central part of Quezon province, the protagonists are now trying to pin the blame on each other.

Lt. Jovelyn Cabading, 202nd Infantry Brigade public affairs officer, said despite the high casualty list among government forces, "the military and the police we're still being pictured in some media reports as the one responsible for the rush of evacuees."

"It's quite unfair. The families of slain government soldiers also grieve for the loss of their loved ones," Cabading said.

She argued that it would be easy for the government forces to flush out the communist guerrillas.

"But government soldiers strictly adhere to the mandated rules of engagement. We can't just sporadically shoot the enemy. We have to first make sure that no civilian will be caught in the crossfire.

"Unlike the NPA, which uses the civilian population as human shields," Cabading claimed.

According to collated figures from the local governments of Dolores, Tiaong, Candelaria and Sariaya towns, the total number of evacuees has reached 8,000 persons.

Return

Most of them have since returned home, except those from the cluster of mountain villages in Sariaya and Candelaria.

For his part, communist spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal blamed the heavy bombardment of the military as the main cause of the heavy evacuation of civilians.

"What's the use of mortar pounding and helicopter gunfire except to strike fear among the civilians?" Rosal argued in a mobile phone interview.

The military has admitted firing mortars and using helicopter gunships but gave assurances that they are being done in uninhabited areas.

Amid the finger-pointing between the principal players in the theater of war, communist gunmen have shifted the battle to the Bondoc Peninsula area, their traditional stronghold.

Communist guerrillas from the Apolonio Mendoza NPA Command killed two Army soldiers and wounded a civilian in an ambush in Barangay Mabini, Mulanay town on Friday.

The latest casualties in Mulanay were identified as Sgt. Manuel Buhawe and Pfc. Alfonso. Tanayag.

The injured civilian was identified as one Nelson Buendia.

Reports said the three were going to cut bamboos for the construction of a patrol base, in the area when waylaid by more than 10 communist gunmen.

The guerrillas seized one .45-cal. pistol and one 9 mm pistol from the victims.

Snipers

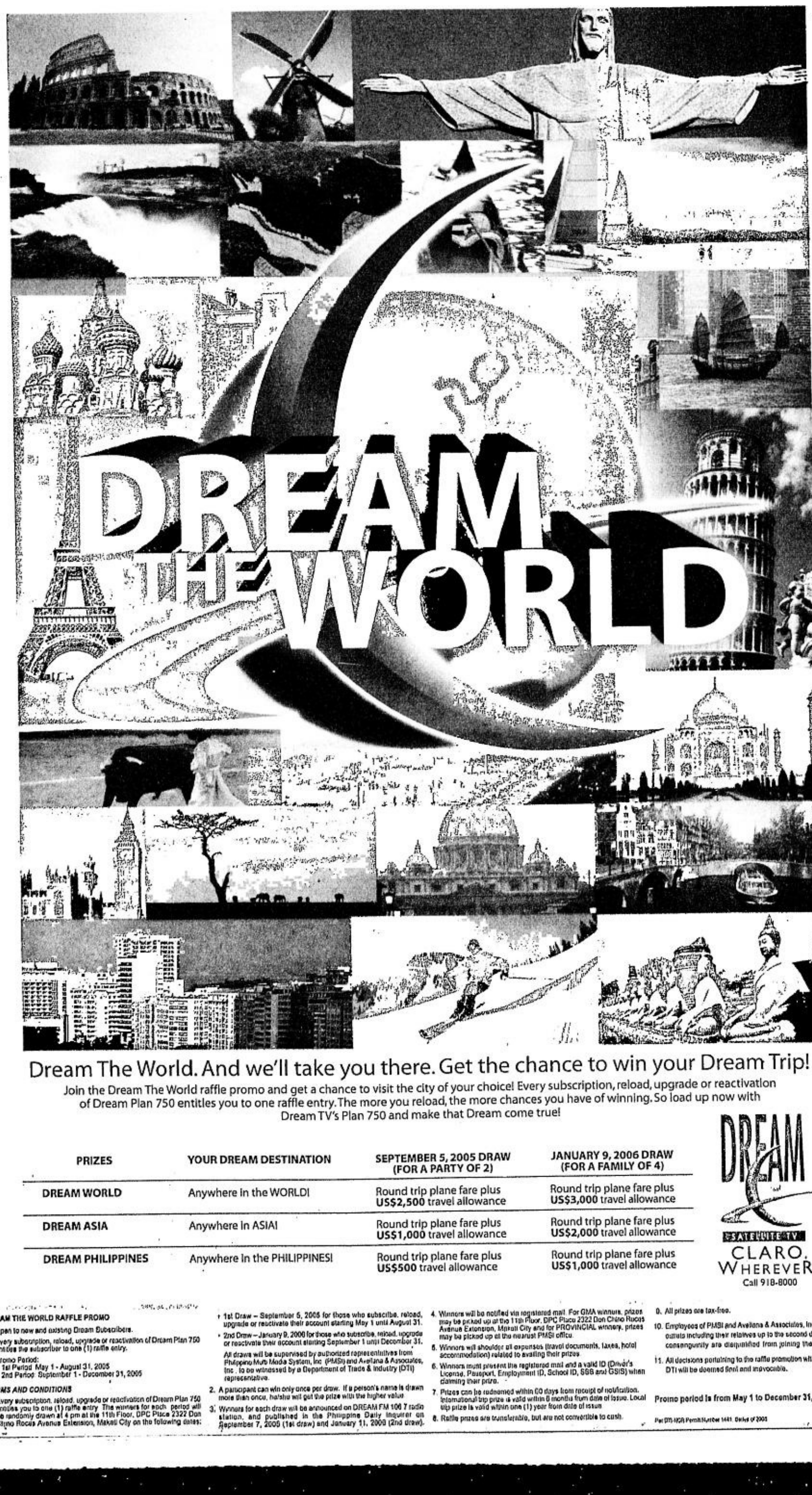
In Lucban, Quezon on Thursday, another group of NPA used snipers and wounded an Army soldier identified as Cpl. Rodrigo Soriano.

As of yesterday, based on police and military reports, the government forces had already suffered seven casualties and at least 24 Army soldiers and policemen were wounded after the communist rebels attacked a police mobile patrol in Tiaong town on Sunday.

Rosal admitted that the group of NPA members being pursued by government forces in the hinterland of Mt. Banahaw in central part of Quezon already suffered two casualties.

"As far as my office is concerned, we already have two casualties and several injuries," Rosal told the INQUIRER in a mobile phone interview. He did not elaborate. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go?



Dream The World. And we'll take you there. Get the chance to win your Dream Trip!

Join the Dream The World raffle promo and get a chance to visit the city of your choice! Every subscription, reload, upgrade or reactivation of Dream Plan 750 entitles you to one raffle entry. The more you reload, the more chances you have of winning. So load up now with Dream TV's Plan 750 and make that Dream come true!

PRIZES	YOUR DREAM DESTINATION	SEPTEMBER 5, 2005 DRAW (FOR A PARTY OF 2)	JANUARY 9, 2006 DRAW (FOR A FAMILY OF 4)
DREAM WORLD	Anywhere in the WORLD!	Round trip plane fare plus US$2,500 travel allowance	Round trip plane fare plus US$3,000 travel allowance
DREAM ASIA	Anywhere in ASIA!	Round trip plane fare plus US$1,000 travel allowance	Round trip plane fare plus US$2,000 travel allowance
DREAM PHILIPPINES	Anywhere in the PHILIPPINES!	Round trip plane fare plus US$500 travel allowance	Round trip plane fare plus US$1,000 travel allowance

DREAM SATELLITE TV
CLARO. WHEREVER!
Call 918-8000

DREAM THE WORLD RAFFLE PROMO

1. Open to new and existing Dream Subscribers.
2. Every subscription, reload, upgrade or reactivation of Dream Plan 750 entitles the subscriber to one (1) raffle entry.
3. Promo Period:
   - 1st Period: May 1 - August 31, 2005
   - 2nd Period: September 1 - December 31, 2005

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. Every subscription, reload, upgrade or reactivation of Dream Plan 750 entitles you to one (1) raffle entry. The winners for each period will be randomly drawn at 4 pm at the 11th Floor, DPC Place 2322 Don Chino Roces Avenue Extension, Makati City on the following dates:
   - 1st Draw – September 5, 2005 for those who subscribe, reload, upgrade or reactivate their account starting May 1 until August 31.
   - 2nd Draw – January 9, 2006 for those who subscribe, reload, upgrade or reactivate their account starting September 1 until December 31.

   All draws will be supervised by authorized representatives from Philippine Multi Media System, Inc. (PMSI) and Avellana & Associates, Inc., to be witnessed by a Department of Trade & Industry (DTI) representative.
2. A participant can win only once per draw. If a person's name is drawn more than once, he/she will get the prize with the higher value.
3. Winners for each draw will be announced on DREAM FM 106.7 radio station, and published in the Philippine Daily Inquirer on September 7, 2005 (1st draw) and January 11, 2006 (2nd draw).
4. Winners will be notified via registered mail. For GMA winners, prizes may be picked up at the 11th Floor, DPC Place 2322 Don Chino Roces Avenue Extension, Makati City and for PROVINCIAL winners, prizes may be picked up at the nearest PMSI office.
5. Winners will shoulder all expenses (travel documents, taxes, hotel accommodation) related to availing their prizes.
6. Winners must present the registered mail and a valid ID (Driver's License, Passport, Employment ID, School ID, SSS and GSIS) when claiming their prize.
7. Prizes can be redeemed within 60 days from receipt of notification. International trip prize is valid within 6 months from date of issue. Local trip prize is valid within one (1) year from date of issue.
8. Raffle prizes are transferable, but are not convertible to cash.
9. All prizes are tax-free.
10. Employees of PMSI and Avellana & Associates, Inc. and participating outlets including their relatives up to the second degree of affinity or consanguinity are disqualified from joining the raffle promotion.
11. All decisions pertaining to the raffle promotion with prior approval by DTI will be deemed final and irrevocable.

Promo period is from May 1 to December 31, 2005.

Per DTI-NCR Permit Number 1441, Series of 2005

EZ2 3 5 | SUERTRES 1 6 1 (In exact order) | SIX DIGIT 3 7 9 0 7 9

Text us your feedback:
Inquirer met name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

METRO

E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Ester G. Dipasupil

6/42 Luzon/Vis-Min 5 8 19 29 30 35

₱14,651,193.60

Makati Rescue: On call nationwide 24/7

By Tarra V. Quismundo

WHEN THEY STARTED IN 1992, ALL they had was a P200 first aid kit.

Today, Makati Rescue, the emergency response unit of the country's business capital, is one of the best equipped and most efficient rescue teams nationwide.

"Their mere equipment, you would be surprised when you see them... Then how they move, they are really synchronized and they really know how to handle any scenario. They work professionally and they do not succumb to pressure," said Roderick Perez, a 25-year-old mountaineer who trained with the team five months ago.

For the past 13 years, Makati Rescue has been saving the lives of victims anywhere, 24/7 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week) in all kinds of emergency—from car accidents and train mishaps to natural calamities such as landslides, even terror attacks.

Upon receiving a call for help over the phone or on the radio, the 28-man team of trained rescue personnel springs into action, armed with a multi-million peso truckload of equipment that has many times pulled a victim from the brink of death.

The need for a Makati-based quick response team arose in 1991 after several people were buried beneath a burned building which had collapsed as it was being demolished.

"The mayor (Jejomar Binay) saw that lack, that Makati was not equipped yet back then. A building collapsed and the city could not do anything to address the problem and we had to 'import' a rescue team from the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority. So we needed to set up a defense system," said Edwin Aguilar, one of team's pioneers.

It was the younger Binay, Councilor Jejomar Erwin, who called for young Makati volunteers to form the city's first quick response team. Thus, the Makati Youth Emergency Rescue Team (MYERT) was born in 1992.

Aguilar, fellow pioneer Marlon Pajanostan and other volunteers spent around three years training for emergencies. Their "ambulance" was a passenger jeep loaned by a friend containing a basic first aid kit worth P200. To communicate, the team used a radio owned by Pajanostan.

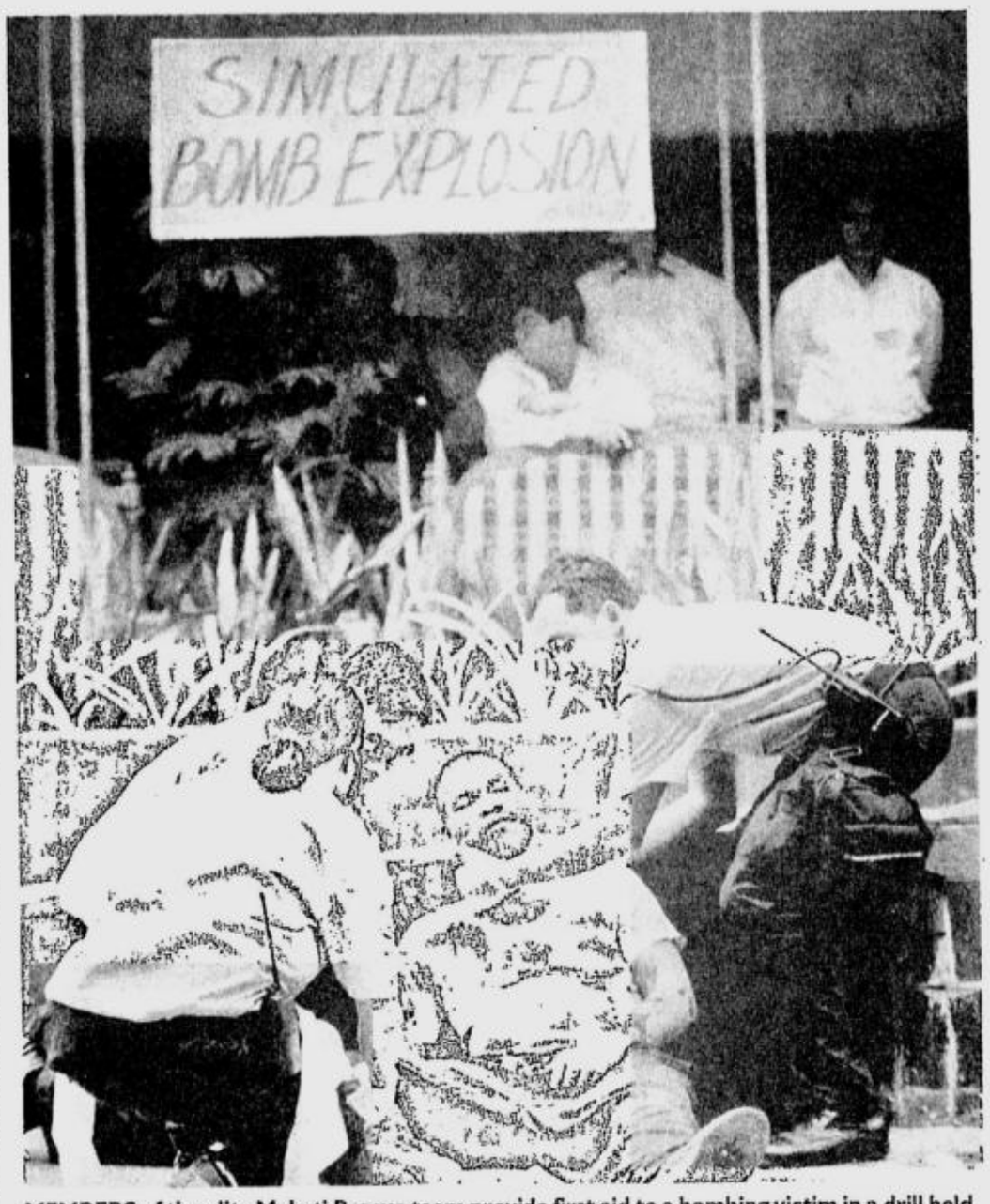
"We committed ourselves that we would not let go of this. We often got criticized and got so many insulting words from others who looked down on us, but we were never discouraged," Pajanostan told the INQUIRER.

The team's efforts were eventually noticed in 1995 when its members proved their dedication as they helped victims of super typhoon "Rosing" which had devastated many areas in the country, including Makati.

"Rosing was bad for most people, but for us, Rosing was a blessing. Mayor Binay worked side by side with us as we cleared roads, went to barangays to verify reports of damages, organized evacuations and distributed relief goods. That's when the city government took notice," Pajanostan said.

Impressed by their devotion, the city began providing the team with financial support and equipment such as uniforms, protective gear and emergency tools.

In 1997, the Makati government, through City Ordinance 97-093, officially renamed the MYERT as Makati Rescue. It also created the Emergency Medical Services which placed under a single system the city's emergency response agencies which, aside from Makati Rescue, also include the Ospital ng Makati and Makati Disaster Coordinating Council.



MEMBERS of the elite Makati Rescue team provide first aid to a bombing victim in a drill held at the city's Tiara Hotel. The elite rescue team responds to emergencies anywhere in the country, 24 hours a day. REM ZAMORA

National artist's widow stays cool in the face of fire

NARITA, the wife of National Artist for Literature NVM Gonzales, shows an article about her husband, one of just a few things she managed to salvage from their house in UP Diliman which burned down on Nov. 18. Narita is also a writer and the editor of the book "Writers' Wives." JOAN BONDOC

By Elizabeth Lolarga
Contributor

DAYS AFTER A FIRE RAZED THE house of National Artist for Literature NVM Gonzales, his widow Narita received a few guests at the house of violinist John Lesaca, where she and and her family are staying temporarily.

The fire occurred on Nov. 18, 10 days before NVM's sixth death anniversary. It razed the house on Mabini St., Area 1, UP Diliman, which for years, had been the second home of writers who aspired to follow in the literary giant's footsteps. All that remained after the blaze were a TV set, two cars and Narita's musical jewelry box.

The rest, NVM's priceless manuscripts, and copies of his work like "Bread of Salt" and "Children of the Ash-covered Loam," a collection of short stories, were lost, including several first edition copies of Hemingway books and other literary treasures. Also gone were his violin, guitar and a piano, which a few days before, writer Gregorio Brillantes had played on after Narita told him that she had not heard live music for sometime.

Text brigade

I learned about the fire from a friend, Princess Nemenzo, who received a text message from Lesaca, the Gonzaleses' neighbor. I immediately forwarded it to common friends like sculptor Jerry Araos, writers Menchu Sarmiento (who is also executive director of the Philippine Airlines Foundation), Mariel Francisco, Winnie Velasquez and Gilda Cordero Fernando.

Gilda told me that all the Gonzaleses were safe, although Narita and her grandson Huggy had been brought to the UP Infirmary for inhaling a lot of smoke.

With Dr. Melen Araos and her daughters Liwa, Mira and son Julian, we went to Lesaca's house, armed with used clothes and other items we thought Narita and her family could use.

Generous friends

Their other friends, however, had apparently thought of the same thing since the tables were groaning with food; in every corner, there were bags containing clothes and toiletries.

Narita came out of her room and greeted us. She hesitated when she came to me, as if trying to recall who I was. I told her I was a friend of Gilda and Delfin Tolentino Jr. of UP Baguio. At the mention of Delfin's name, she almost broke down, remembering the books she had set aside as donations to the university library. She had also selected books which she was to donate to Ateneo schools in the provinces as a goodwill gesture on the occasion of NVM's 90th birthday. The books, however, were lost in the fire.

She whispered to me, "I was going to buy 90 books since he would have turned 90 this year. But I couldn't afford to buy that much so I just settled for 50."

Ever the gracious hostess

As we talked, she stood up, ever the gracious hostess, to get a bottle of pate, a jar of pesto and some queso de bola. She asked her son Nim to scrounge around for some bread or crackers but we declined since it seemed strange, considering the circumstances.

Narita said that Gilda had brought her "fashionable clothes," including an expensive shawl which she made her promise to wear.

I told her Menchu was worried about her and asked what she wanted the young writer, the first NVM Gonzalez short story competition award winner, to bring over.

Leaning over, Narita whispered, "Not panties because my room is raining with new panties from benefactors."

How about unscented Dove soap, her preferred red soap? Narita giggled. "My room is flooded with them." Then what practical thing can Menchu bring? "Half slip," she replied.

One person chimed in that half slips were a thing of the past. Liwa said, "No, they're back. Nursing students need them. The best place to find them is SM Department Store. Go for the Sogo brand."

Narita then brought out her jewelry box and wound it so we could hear the theme from the movie "Love Story." All the while, she thought it was Lara's theme from "Doctor Zhivago."

She was in fine spirits as we left. On our way out, we took a look at what remained of her house. All that was left was a few posts and the roof.

When I texted Gilda to tell her about Narita's calmness and poise, she answered, "*Pero humahagulgol* in between." Perhaps she put up a brave front for us but would be more open about her feelings to closer friends. Her ordeal was probably like losing NVM all over again.

Friends of NVM are collecting books to rebuild his library. Those who want to help can send an e-mail to nvmgonzalesinc@gmail.com.

MRT, LRT offer free rides today

By Clarissa S. Batino

EVERYONE GETS TO RIDE FOR free today on the Metro's three light rail transit systems.

The Metrostar Express and Light Rail Transit lines 1 and 2 will offer free rides beginning at noon until closing hours to give the public a chance to watch today's formal opening ceremonies of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games at Rizal Park.

"We want to encourage the public to watch the biggest sporting event in the country," said Light Rail Transit Authority administrator Mel Robles.

Metro Rail Transit 3 general manager Roberto Lastimoso said the Metrostar Express which passes through Edsa from North Edsa to Taft Avenue will forgo between P1 to P2 million in revenues today.

Robles, meanwhile, estimated that the two LRT lines would also have to sacrifice a similar amount. The LRT line 1 runs along Rizal Avenue from Monumento to Baclaran while the LRT line 2 is from Recto to Santolan.

Cainta mall reopens after bomb scare

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

A SIX-FLOOR MALL IN CAINTA, Rizal, resumed operations yesterday, a day after a bomb scare which sent shoppers into a panic.

Mayor Mon Ilagan asked the Rizal Provincial Police to deploy a Special Weapons and Tactics Team to the Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall to prevent a repetition of the incident which reportedly cost its owners millions of pesos in lost revenues.

"I just want to assure people going to the mall that they are safe," Ilagan said.

Around 50 policemen, bomb experts and firefighters rushed to the mall Friday afternoon after the discovery of two sealed boxes that were suspected to contain bombs but were later found to contain packets of sand topped off with electric wires.

One of the boxes was found at about 2 p.m. by a boy on the fourth floor, near the Worlds of Fun Amusement Center. Minutes later, a second box was found and guards asked shoppers to vacate the entire floor.

As news of the discovery spread around the packed mall, shoppers started to panic.

"People were shouting as they were rushing outside. We did not know what was happening," Rose, 22, the manager of a restaurant on the third floor, told the INQUIRER.

Building authorities shut the entire mall down and called in the police. Bomb experts from the Special Action Force, policemen with bomb-sniffing dogs in tow, and firemen arrived an hour later.

After several tense hours, three explosions were heard as bomb experts opened the boxes, creating tension among employees and a curious public who were gathered outside.

Cainta Police chief Supt. Gilbert Cruz said the explosions were caused by the detonating cords used to open the boxes.

"The intention was clear. They just wanted to scare people," Cruz said in an interview. He based his observation on the fact that the boxes had been placed in areas where these would be immediately noticed. The perpetrators even placed an electric wire on top one of the packages, he added.

Cruz said they were looking into the possibility that the bomb scare might have been an inside job since the boxes had been left near a storeroom to which only employees have access.

METROBRIEFS

Bleak Christmas for vendors

VENDORS who were evicted from the Pasig City public market three weeks ago are bracing for a bleak Christmas. Although they have set up makeshift stalls along an alley adjacent to the market, they are being driven away by city sidewalk clearing operatives who said they are obstructing traffic. "*Hindi na kami makapaghanapbuhay ng maayos*," buko vendor Conie, 50, told the INQUIRER. Vendors usually look forward to the Christmas season, expecting brisk sales because of the high demand for food. Pasig City Mayor Vicente Eusebio told the INQUIRER he had already talked to the father of former Agriculture Sec. Arthur Yap, who is seeking ownership of the property on which the market stands. Eusebio reported that the Yaps already have a project plan for the construction of a new market on the contested piece of land. "I just asked them to give priority to the affected vendors after the new market is completed," the mayor said. But lawyer Jose Capco Jr., who is representing the vendors, had said his clients were not amenable to the proposal because of several cases they had filed contesting the Yaps' claim still pending in several courts. The public market is the subject of a land dispute between 50 vendors and the DHY Realty and Development owned by the Yaps who bought the property in 1997. The change of ownership has split the vendors into two warring groups: one recognizing the new owner, the other asserting their claim to the decades-old market. The conflict resulted in a violent confrontation on Nov. 3 when armed with a notice to vacate from a local court, the DHY sent wreckers to dismantle the stalls of vendors who resisted. It also placed a fence around the market, leaving only a meter-wide entrance manned by guards armed with shotguns. *Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*

ILLUSTRATION STEPH BRAVO

1st World Pyro Olympics

THE SKIES over Pasay City will burst into a sea of colors when it plays host to the First World Pyro Olympics next month. The first-of-a-kind international tilt will treat spectators to a 20-minute aerial fireworks display by competing countries each night from Dec. 26-30 at The Esplanade, Bay City Central Business Park, the City Hall announced yesterday. "It is a grand event of world-class quality. Pasay City, the nation's window to the rest of the world, is more than ready to welcome other world-class activities," Mayor Wenceslao "Peewee" Trinidad said. The fireworks display by two competing countries each night would be launched from barges anchored about 300 meters off the seawall of The Esplanade. Nine countries will be participating in the tournament: China, US, United Kingdom, Germany, Russia, Australia, South Korea, United Arab Emirates and South Africa. *Jocelyn R. Uy*

National Book Week activities

IN CELEBRATION of the 71st anniversary of National Book Week (NBW), the Philippine Librarians Association Inc. in cooperation with the National Library has organized week-long activities from Nov. 24 to 30 with the theme, "Kultura ng Pagbabasa'y Palaganapin, Aklat at Aklatan Ating Pagyamanin." NBW overall co-chair Lourdes V. Soriano said that among the activities slated by the NBW Committee are a funwalk in Rizal Park, essay writing and storytelling contests, extension services (outreach program), a fellowship luncheon and seminars to be conducted by the different library associations. For particulars, call Lourdes V. Soriano at (049)8081350, Lolita C. Atienza at 8316688, 8611756 or Nona Yauder at 5250356.

Kidnapping in Navotas

A MAN was reportedly kidnapped by five persons in Navotas on Thursday, according to his wife. The woman told the police that three men and two women carrying M16 rifles forced her husband, Danilo Adao Perpetua, 43, into a silver car with plate number XTF-615. The incident happened along Road 10 in Sitio Putong Bato. The police said they were checking the report. *Nancy C. Carvajal*

Globe
The official wireless partner

Sulong. Laban. Huwag uurong. Ngayon na ang simula ng ating pakikipagsapalaran. Para sa ginto. Para sa bayan. Kasama ng Globe ang buong sambayanan sa pagbibigay suporta sa ating mga atleta. Iparamdam natin ang lakas ng Pilipino sa pagbubukas ng 23rd SEA Games ngayong gabi sa Quirino Grandstand.

Sama-sama nating ipakita sa buong mundo na tunay na walang imposible sa Pilipino.

Basta Pinoy.
Posible.

FOR SEA GAMES INFO AND DOWNLOADS

text **SEAG** to **2303**

Support Team Philippines! Watch the SEA Games on PTV 4, ABC 5 & IBC 13.

FOR TRAINING
ARE YOU FEMALE,
WITH A VALID JAPANESE VISA?
TRAIN TO BECOME AN ENTERTAINER
CALL 3022649 / 09272696991
(0917)8142863 ; (02)3764903

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2005

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Sunday SPORTS

E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres

Text us your feedback: Inquirer sprt name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

TAEKWONDO OFFICIAL EQUIPMENT KIX
PILIPINAS LABAN!

23rd SEA Games under way; GMA guest of honor

By Jasmine W. Payo

A WELCOME RESPITE FOR a nation rocked by political turmoil.

Hoping to capture a moment of glory, the Philippines plays host to the 23rd Southeast Asian Games starting today with its sight set on a first-ever overall championship since joining the biennial sportsfest in 1977.

Nearly 4,000 athletes from 11 countries will compete for 439 gold medals in 41 sport disciplines that will be staged in 17 venues in Luzon and in the Visayas.

Action, though, started a week before today's opening ceremonies at 5:30 p.m. which will have no less than President Macapagal-Arroyo as guest of honor at the Quirino Grandstand.

It is the first kick-off rites to be held in a public park with all previous openings held at the national stadium of the host country.

The Philippines had already claimed its first silver medal from the water polo team last Friday behind perennial winner Singapore.

Several local sports officials are expecting a strong overall showing from Team Philippines and hopes are particularly high in boxing, billiards, bowling, equestrian, taekwondo, athletics, swimming and several martial arts events.

"We are targeting some 120 gold medals this year and we will do our best to land on top," said Philippine Olympic Committee chair Robert Aventajado.

As the host country, the Philippines has the biggest contingent with 743 athletes and 355 sports officials in the Games, which it previously hosted in 1981 and 1991, when the country lost the overall title to Indonesia by one gold.

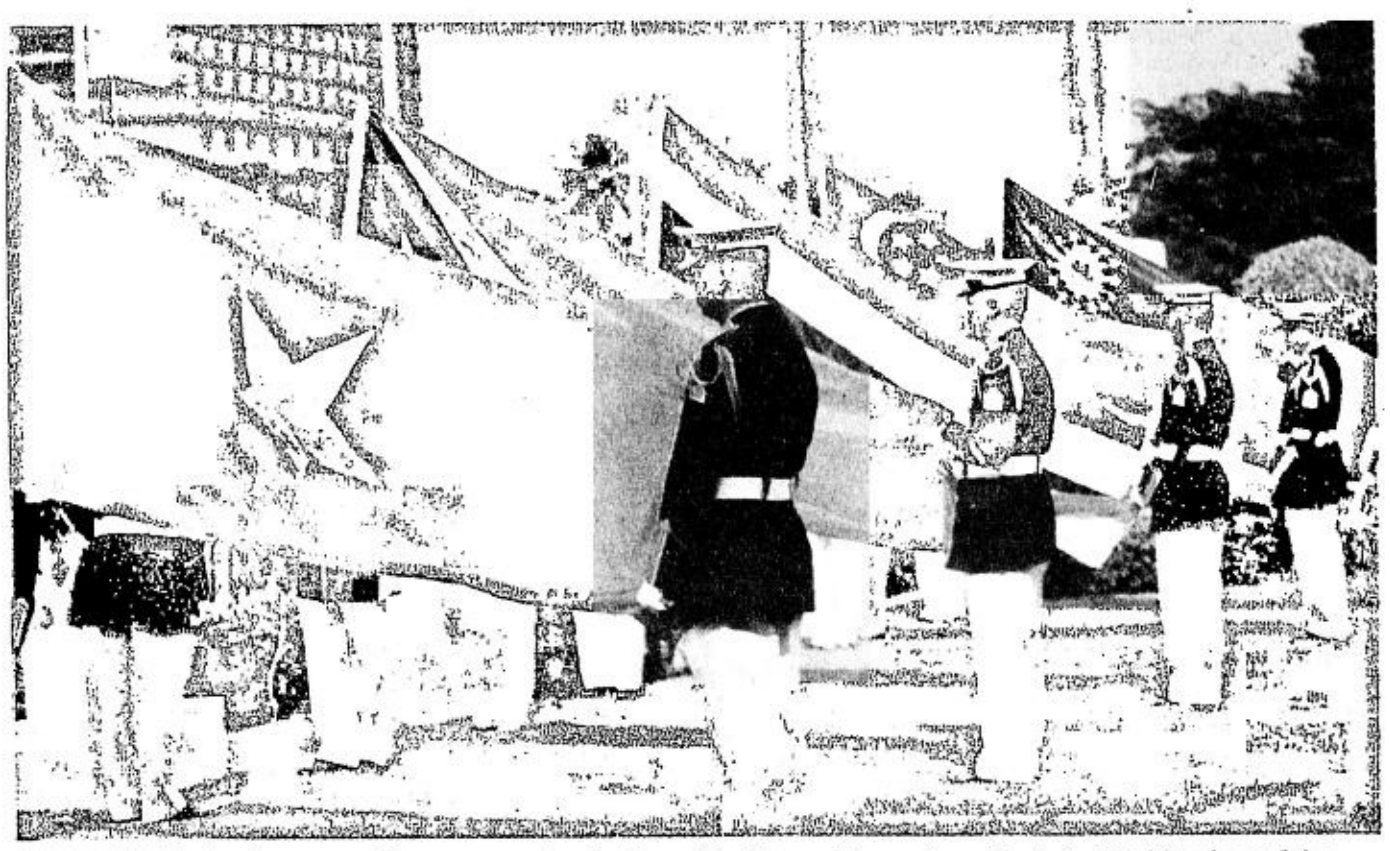
Officials of the Philippine SEAG Organizing Committee (Philsoc) headed by Peping Cojuangco assured the country will deliver a smooth hosting job despite being hit by criticisms for the chaotic preparation.

"Everything is okay now," said Philsoc secretary general Steve Hontiveros. "For the opening ceremonies, our police already checked the security. Gen. Sonny Razon has been on top of this and Gen. Rodolfo Tor has also been in charge."

Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski, equestrian gold medalist in the 2002 Asian Games, will be the RP flag-bearer during the two-and-a-half hour opening extravaganza.

Also gracing the affair are some of the country's all-time best athletes led by Filipino boxing idol Manny Pacquiao, four-time world bowling champion Paeng Nepomuceno, Asia's former track star Lydia de Vega-Mercado, five-time SEAG gold medalist Eric Buhain,

23RD SEAG/ A24



PHILIPPINE Marines honor guards prepare to raise the flags of the 11 countries seeing action in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games. Although some sports events have already started, the Games formally begin only today. REM ZAMORA

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

ATHLETICS (*Rizal Memorial Track Oval*)
8:30 a.m.—Long Jump (women's finals)
9:00 a.m.—Pole Vault (women's finals)
9:00 a.m.—High Jump (women's finals)
9:45 a.m.—100-m Dash (men's semifinals)
10:00 a.m.—100-m Dash (women's semifinals)

BILLIARDS AND SNOOKER (*Makati Coliseum*)
7:00 p.m.—15-Ball Rotation (men's finals)
7:00 p.m.—Snooker Team (finals)

AQUATICS-DIVING (*Trace College, Laguna*)
9:30 a.m.—3-m Synchro Springboard (women's preliminary/finals)
10:30 a.m.—10-m Synchro Platform (men's preliminary/finals)
2:00 p.m.—1-m Springboard (men's preliminary/finals)

DANCESPORT (*Water Front Hotel, Cebu City*)
12:35 p.m.—Latin American (Rd. 1)
12:55 p.m.—Standard
1:15 p.m.—Latin American (Rd. 2)
1:40 p.m.—Standard (Finals)
2:05 p.m.—Latin American (Finals)

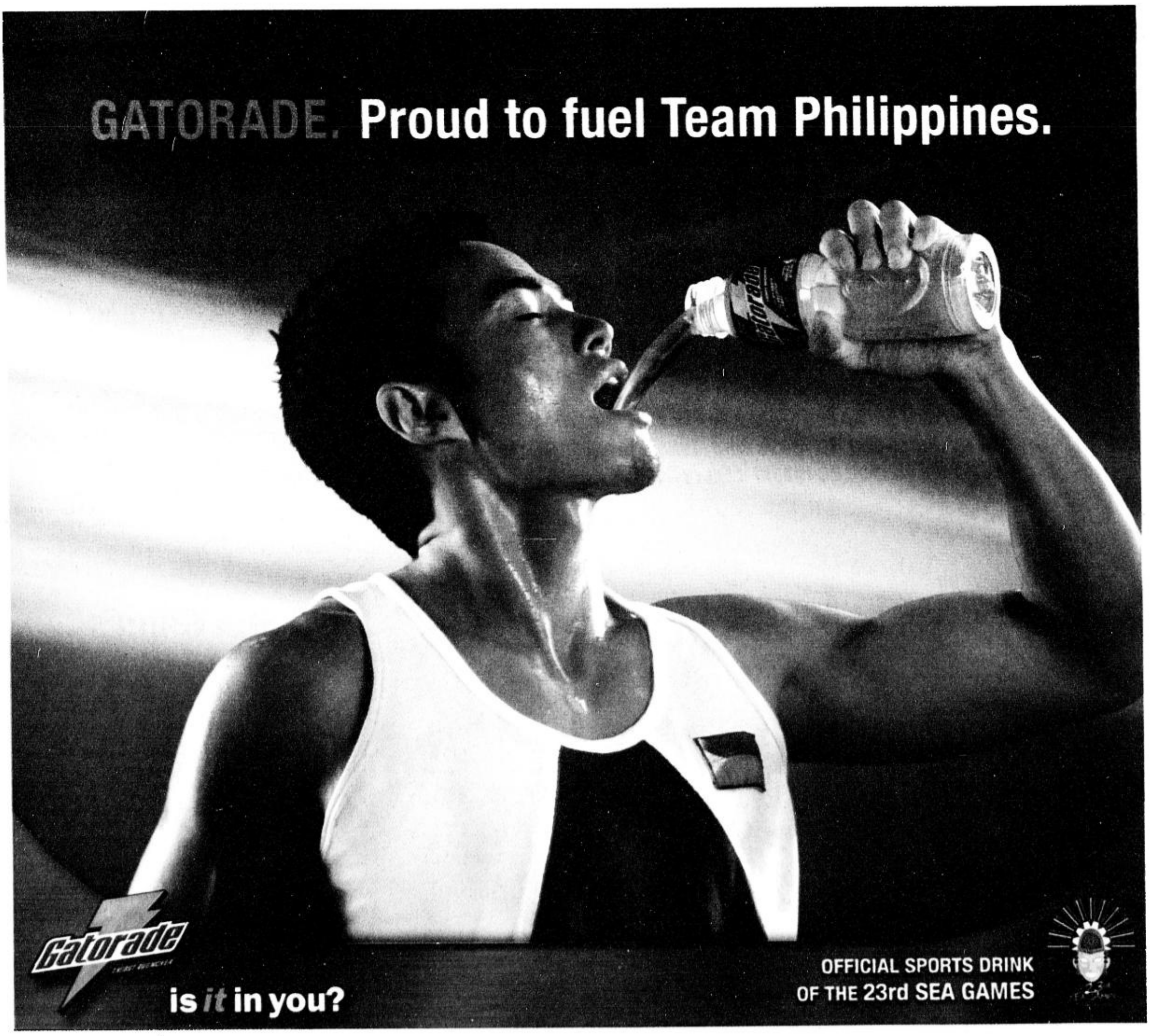
KARATE-DO (*Mandaue Coliseum, Mandaue City*)
9:00 a.m.—Team Kumite (men's finals)
9:00 a.m.—Team Kumite (women's finals)
1:00 p.m.—Individual Kata (women's finals)
3:00 p.m.—Individual Kata (men's finals)

MEN'S FOOTBALL (*Panaad SC, Bacolod City*)
4:30 p.m.—Thailand vs Malaysia

VOLLEYBALL (*West Negros College Gym, Bacolod*)
2:00 p.m.—RP vs Singapore (women's prelims)
3:30 p.m.—Thailand vs Vietnam (men's prelims)
5:00 p.m.—RP vs Myanmar (men's prelims)

RP lady booters zap Indons A25

Indon netters rap Filipinos A26



GMA praises water polo team for silver

LOS BAÑOS—President Macapagal-Arroyo personally congratulated the Philippine water polo team that won the silver medal Friday which officials hope would inspire the entire RP delegation competing in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games.

The water polo players, who lost the gold to perennial champion Singapore by absorbing a 7-6 decision in the elimination, were scheduled to pay a courtesy call to the First Family in Malacañang last night.

Ms Arroyo appeared unannounced yesterday at the PTV4 studios while the water polo team was being interviewed and thanked them for winning the first medal for the country in the SEA Games.

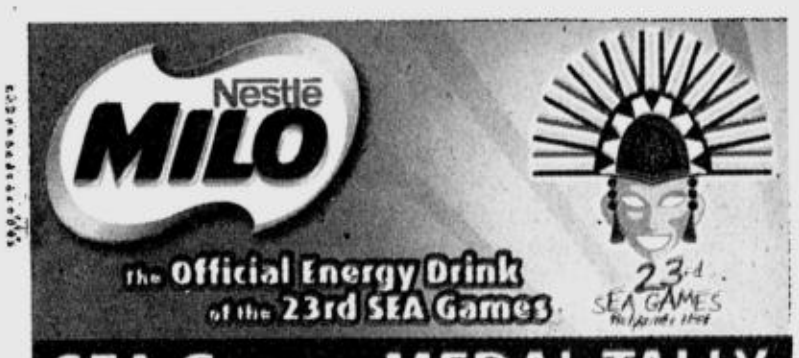
"I want to congratulate you. *Ipinagmamalaki ko kayo.* You make the nation very proud," she said.

The President also asked the Filipino people to "let the SEA Games be a moment of unity."

The RP team finished with four wins against that single loss to Singapore, beating Malaysia on the final day to take the silver.

The Malaysians settled for the bronze medal. *Marc Anthony Reyes*

MEMBERS of the Philippine Water Polo team show their silver medals in a press conference yesterday at the Sulu Hotel, in Quezon City. JOAN BONDOC



SEA Games MEDAL TALLY

Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze
Singapore	1	0	0	Indonesia	0	0	0
Philippines	0	1	0	Laos	0	0	0
Malaysia	0	0	1	Myanmar	0	0	0
Brunei	0	0	0	Thailand	0	0	0
Cambodia	0	0	0	Timor Leste	0	0	0
				Vietnam	0	0	0

SPRINGBOARD SURPRISE?

Divers go for 1st gold

By Marc Anthony Reyes

LOS BAÑOS—A FIRST GOLD FOR THE COUNTRY IN THE 23RD Southeast Asian Games.

That's the mission of the Philippine diving team when it opens its bid to retain the overall title today at the Trace Aquatics Center here.

What the water polo team narrowly missed, the RP divers, particularly Shiela Mae Perez and Andrea Marie Rafanan and Ceseil Domenos, hope to accomplish in the women's 3-meter synchronized springboard, one of the three events that will be disputed today.

"We prepared long and hard for this event because we focused on winning the first gold," said diving committee chair Evan Alvia.

The Philippines also hopes to improve its Vietnam SEA Games haul of two golds, two silvers and two bronzes in the sport. There will be 10 golds at stake in the four-day diving competitions.

Alvia said they deliberately skipped the men's 10-meter synchro platform to focus on the women's 3-meter synchro springboard. Just the same, the Filipino divers are hoping to also dominate the men's 1-meter springboard also slated today.

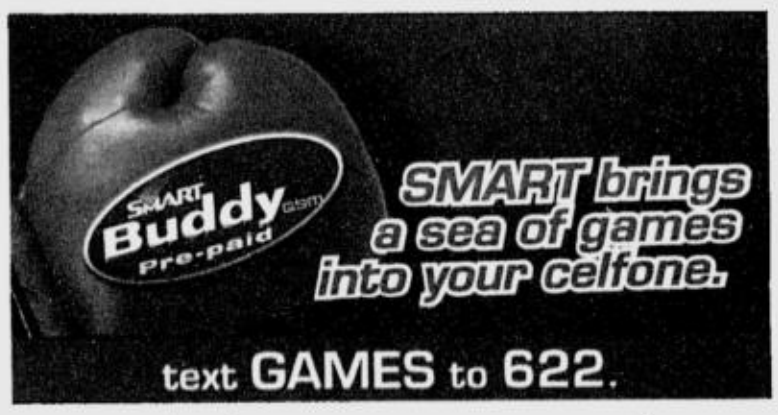
The Filipino divers have trained for four months in China but Alvia said they are expecting stiff opposition from Malaysian and Thai divers, who also trained for months abroad.

"Thailand has a budget 10 times than ours, that should be a daunting advantage for them," said Alvia.

The Thai divers to watch are Supapan Prasertkwan and Sukrutai Tommaoros. Malaysia will rely on Leong Mun Yee and Cheong Jun Hoong in the women's 3m synchro springboard.

The other members of the national diving team are Zardo Domenios, Niño Carag, Rexel Ryan Fabrina, Ralph Ronnel Deliarte and Kevin Kromwell Kong.

Philippine Amateur Swimming Association president Mark Joseph said they aim to surpass the two gold haul two years ago.



Cambodian princes sports fans

BACOLOD CITY—They look like just ordinary sports fans egging on their squad in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games here, but actually they are Cambodian royalties. Prince Norodom Buddhapong and Prince Norodom Ranariddh planed in here to cheer for the Cambodian athletes competing in the biennial meet. "I will not leave Bacolod until there are Cambodian players remaining," said Buddhapong, who arrived here with the Cambodia football team last week. Ranariddh, a boxing aficionado, said he would attend the opening ceremonies in Manila today before coming back here to watch the Cambodian pugilists in the men's category. Buddhapong and Ranariddh, nephew and son, of Cambodia's King Norodom Sihanouk, said they have no complaints even after Cambodia lost to the Filipino booters, 4-2, Friday night because their team give its best shot. ***Christian Irl Tan***

Not all events are free to public

SORRY folks, not all sporting events in the 23rd Philippine Southeast Asian Games will be free to the public. Athletics, badminton, billiards and snooker, bodybuilding, gymnastics, table tennis, lawn tennis, taekwondo and muay thai will be charging minimal fees. Philippine SEA Games Organizing Committee (Philsoc) secretary general Steve Hontiveros said only those sports with captive audience had been given rights to charge minimal fees in an effort to raise additional funding to be used for its manpower, sound system equipment and rent for particular venues. "Those sports (with fees) are proven crowd drawers," said Hontiveros. "We charge fees for funding purposes. Proceeds will go to Philsoc.

LRT offers free rides in line 1, 2

THE LIGHT Rail Transit (LRT) will be offering free rides when the 23rd Southeast Asian Games formally begins today. Lines 1 and 2 of the LRT are free to the public from noon until 10 p.m. to allow the smooth transporting of passengers, especially those who are going to watch the opening ceremonies at the Quirino Grandstand. The directive was made Transportation and Communication Secretary Leandro Mendoza to LRTA Administrator Melquiades Robles in answer to the request made by Philsoc chair Jose "Peping" Cojuangco Jr.

23rd SEA Games...

From page A23

Olympic boxing silver medalist Onyok Velasco and US Billiards Hall of Famer Efren "Bata" Reyes.

Taekwondo Olympian Antoinette Rivero will carry the torch and light the Games' cauldron at the Grandstand.

"This is a show worth remembering," said overall opening program director Maria Montelibano. "Although we have limited funding, we assure the Filipino people of a great performance."

The sporting event, however, also does its share in promoting goodwill and peace as Ms Arroyo will be sharing the stage with deputies from the secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

"We feel so honored to attend, for the first time in MILF history, the opening of the SEA Games," said MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu in a statement. "This will show the world we are for peace and the MILF's strong commitment to the peace talks."

Security has been extra tight as royalty and dignitaries from the region arrived for the Games this week, among them Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn and Princess Sievannavari Nariratana of Thailand, Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah and Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah of Brunei and Prince Norodom Ranariddh of Cambodia.

First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, chef de mission of Team Philippines, formally welcomed the delegates yesterday during a simple flag-raising ceremony at the Rizal Park.

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza gave the key of the city to the chef de missions of member-nations from Brunei, Cambodia, Timor Leste, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Burma (Myanmar), Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

★CONVERSE®

salutes the athletes of the 23rd SouthEast Asian Games.

"Everything We Do Is A Tribute To The Athletes Who Gave Birth To Their Sport, To Those Who Made It Great And Those Who Re-Invent It Every Day".

FALL SEVEN TIMES. STAND UP EIGHT.

WADE. 11.3.05

★CONVERSE
THE FIRST SCHOOL
OFFICIAL PARTNER OF THE NBA

www.converse.com.ph

RP, Vietnam lady booters book 1st wins

Tomorrow, they part ways

THE VICTORIOUS Philippine women's football team carries the national flag around the Marikina football field after beating the Indonesians, 2-0, yesterday. AUGUST DE LA CRUZ

TWO BREAKTHROUGH WINS IN ONE DAY.

The Philippines and Vietnam barged into the win column yesterday after beating their respective rivals in women's football of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games at the Marikina Sports Complex.

Coming out stronger and more motivated, the Philippines blasted Indonesia, 2-0, while Vietnam nipped favored Thailand, 1-0.

Angeline Impelido scored on a sneaky kick that blew past the Indonesian defenders in the 30th minute and Mariko Alley connected on a rebound goal from a deflection of Edna Agravante's kick in the 82nd minute.

The Indons tried valiantly to get into the red zone but the RP footbelles' strong interior defense and all-out hustle frustrated them.

"We promised that we're going to attack," said RP assistant team manager Ernest Niebres." That's our game. We play with heart and we play with mind."

Alley said that the loss against Thailand served as a motivator for yesterday's game.

"We knew that we had to win this game. We kept fighting and fighting just like true Filipinos," Alley said.

She also said that she was just at the right moment to make the follow-up goal after Agravante's kick was deflected by the Indonesian goalkeeper.

Earlier, Do Hong Tien scored to give Vietnam its first win in the sport.

The Philippines and Vietnam will square off tomorrow in the main game with Thailand going up against Myanmar earlier. *Rufino Lopez III, contributor*

Arnis returns to SEAG calendar for 2nd time

THE PHILIPPINES HOPES TO RULE ARNIS when the native sport is played for only the second time in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games at the Emilio Aguinaldo College (EAC) gym on Dec.1-4.

Arnis Philippines secretary general Jun Lota said he expects the national team to win majority of the six gold medals at stake.

"This is our game, we can definitely win the overall title in this sport," Lota said.

The national arnis team flexed its muscle by taking the overall crown in the first Philippine-Vietnam Goodwill Game last Aug. 6-7. The host considers Vietnam its main rival in the SEAG.

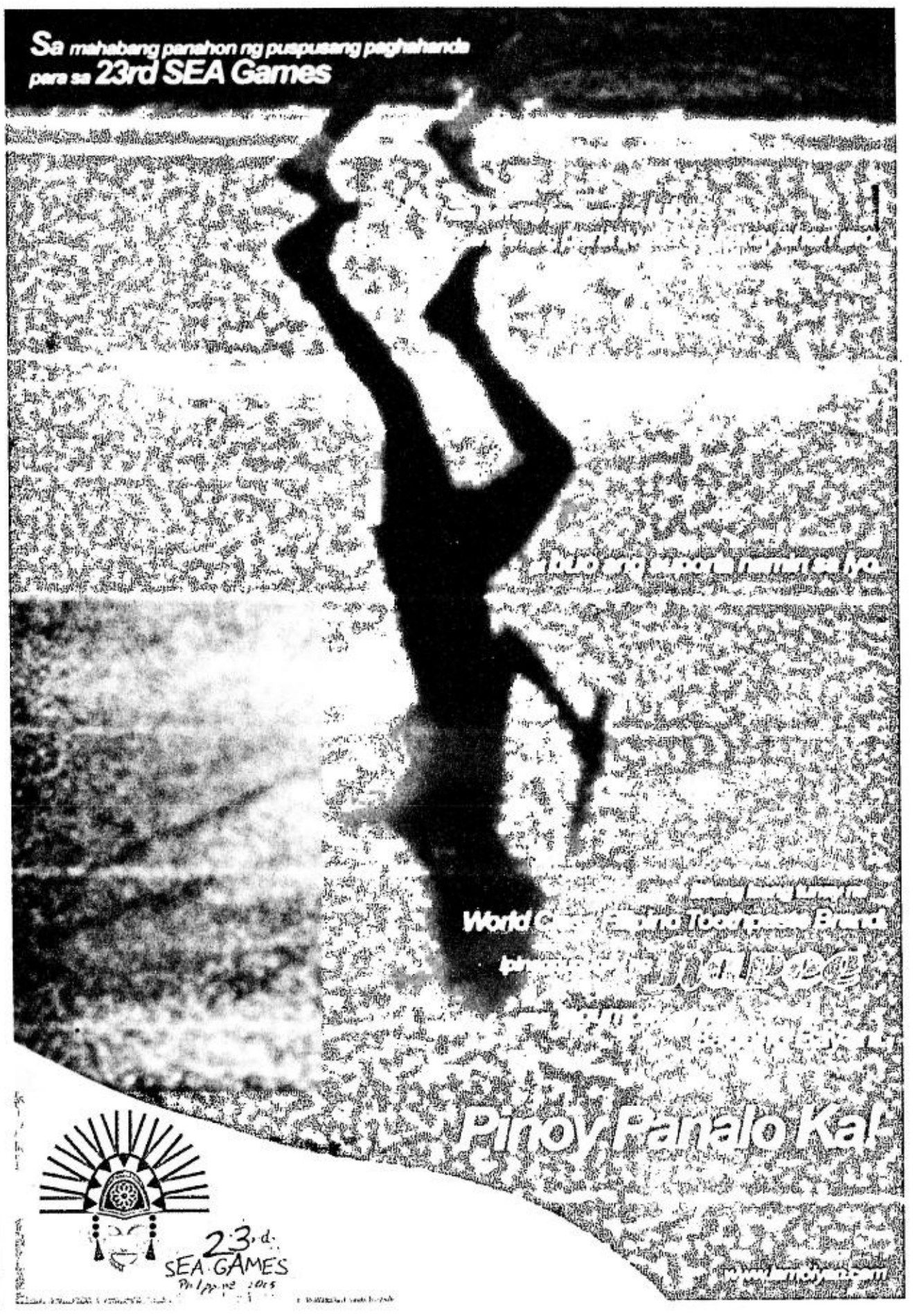
Assistant coach Dominador Vince Lera said arnis is sure to bring medals to the country.

The Philippines also dominated the sport, winning 10 of the 14 golds at stake in 1991 when it was first included in the SEAG.

Also entered in arnis are Cambodia and East Timor.

Heading the national team are Reggie Sanchez (men's individual anyo), Mylen Garson (women's individual anyo), Renato Tuñaco (men's full contact), Anna Joy Fernandez (women's full contact). Competing in the men's team events are Nathan Dominguez, Kelvin Celis, and Glen Llamador. The women's team is made up of Catherine Ballenas, Rochelle Quirol and Irene Parong. *Meysil Yamat, contributor*

23rd Southeast Asian Games
November 27 - December 5, 2005
LEAD BROADCASTER
ABC
Iba Tayo!



Outlook bleak for highly regarded squad

FROM SUNNY TO DIM.

That's how national coach Johnny Jose sounded after the women's tennis team in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games took a beating yesterday at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

The Philippines' two best female players, Czarina Mae Arevalo and Ma. Riza Angela Zalameda, got clobbered by their veteran rivals from Indonesia as the country bowed out of team play in less than two hours.

"We are really the underdogs, as you can see by the results," Jose told the INQUIRER. "We are a very young team, while Thailand and Indonesia are very experienced.

"Now, they (Filipinas) have an idea of what they will be up against (in the singles)."

The singles draw for both the men's and women's events will be held today, and with the bets from Thailand and Indonesia set to occupy the first four seeds in the distaff draw, it seems that crashing into the medal round, based on how the Filipinas fared yesterday, would be a mission too tough to achieve.

"It really depends on the draw," added Jose, the last man to win a gold medal for the Philippines in the Asian Games. "Hopefully, we could win at least a bronze medal." *Musong R. Castillo*

RP lady netters blown away by tough Indons

By Musong R. Castillo

THE PHILIPPINE TENNIS CAMpaign in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games literally got off the wrong foot yesterday as the rampaging Indonesian side sideswiped the country's bets in the women's team event in the semifinals.

The more experienced Indon team won the first two singles matches with plenty to spare, bundling the Filipinas out in a combined one hour and 53 minutes while losing only a total of six games at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

Czarina Mae Arevalo twisted an ankle in the third game of the first set of the opening singles, bowing eventually, 1-6, 3-6, to Indon No. 2 Romana Tedjakusuma, the 2001 gold medalist in Kuala Lumpur.

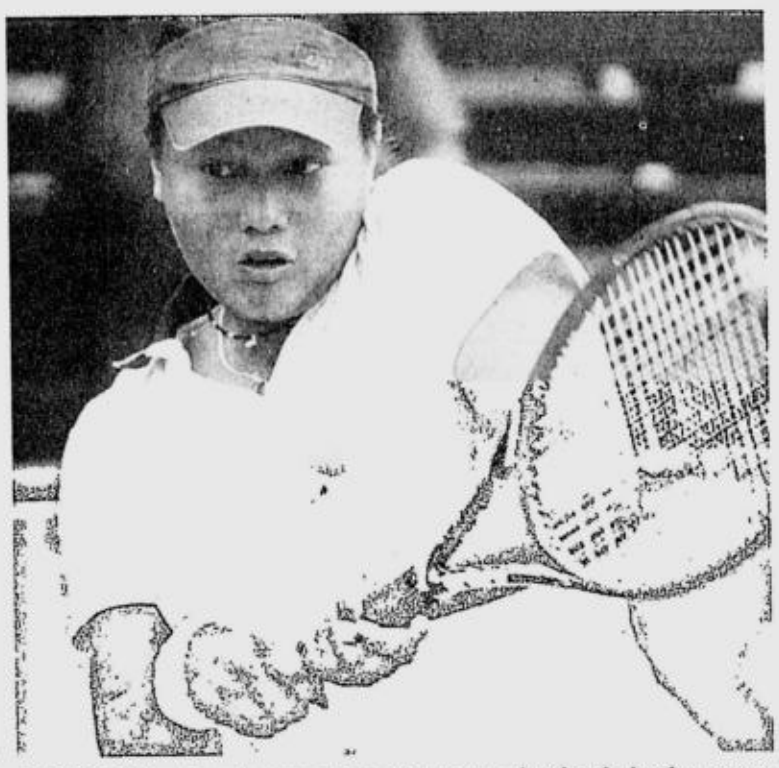
The much-hyped Riza Angela Zalameda did not know what hit her, taking a sound 1-6, 1-6 beating at the hands of veteran Wynne Adiati Prakusia in front of a stunned hometown crowd.

"It was a bad day for me," the 18-year-old Zalameda said. "I tried to adjust but it didn't work."

Fil-Americans Cecil Mamiit and Eric Taino will try to sculpt a better fortune for the top-seeded Philippine side in men's play starting today when they collide with Thailand in the semifinals also on center court.

Action starts at 9 a.m.

No. 3 Thailand blanked Burma (Myanmar) in the singles matches after straight-set victories by Weerapat Doakmaiklee and Sanchai Ratiwatana over Zaw Zaw Latt and Tu Maw, respectively.



CZARINA Mae Arevalo won only four games against her Indon foe. RYAN UM

Doakmaiklee routed Latt, 6-2, 6-3, while Sanchai dropped just two games in a 6-0, 6-2 victory.

Indonesia, with the ageless Suwandi Suwandi leading the charge, also advanced to the final four after thumping Cambodia.

Suwandi whitewashed Ravy Uong in just over 40 minutes, 6-0, 6-0, while Prima Simpatiaji routed Tola Thun, 6-2, 6-2.

The Indon girls will now go for the gold medal against the winner of the Thailand-Vietnam match today.

Women's top seed Thailand drew a bye while Vietnam ousted Burma courtesy of Hyunh Mai Huynh and Viet Ha Ngo in the singles.

Hyunh wriggled out of a tight first set and cruised to a 7-5, 6-1 victory over Amy Tun, while Ngo had an easier time disposing of Burmese No. 2 Chit Su Yee, 6-4, 6-2.

Arevalo, the country's top homegrown bet, sprained her right ankle while chasing a brilliant lob by Tedjakusuma at 0-2 and 30-15 in the first set. But Arevalo put up a courageous fight and finished the match.

Beaten just as bad was world No. 860 Zalameda, the Holcim-ITF second leg champion just a week back, as Prakusia methodically tore down the UCLA Bruin with a solid baseline game to prevail in just 50 minutes.

Prakusia, the world No. 238 who is a regular campaigner in doubles events in the WTA Grand Slam events, was the losing finalist to former age-group wonder Maricris Fernandez in the Brunei Games in 1999, when the Philippines won a tennis gold for the last time.

MEMBERS of the Philippine women's football team say a prayer after blanking team tournament. The Filipinos dropped their first match to the Thais, 1-0.

Thailand striker wows 'em in Panaad

BACOLOD CITY—IF THERE'S A WILL, there's a way.

Trite as it may seem, this worked for four high school girls here, who checked in into one of the most expensive rooms of the hotel housing the Thailand delegation in the Bacolod Southeast Asian Games.

The girls, whose hotel bills were paid for by their parents, wanted to make sure they'll get access to No. 14 of the Thai football team. No. 14 is Teeratep 'Lee' Winothai, a fleet-footed, striker who is among the players making heads turn not only with his game but with his looks.

Also getting much attention are Fil-Briton brothers James Joseph and Philip James Younghusband, who are mobbed everywhere they go.

"I open the inbox of my cellular phone and I get a lot of messages from different numbers," says Winothai who is considered a "veteran" player in his young age of 20.

Winothai, a member of the champion Thai teams in 2001 and 2003, traces his football interest to his tagging along with his father, a sports journalist, while covering tournaments.

"After that experience, I decided to become a soccer player," he says. "I like playing for a team instead of individual sport since it offers more challenge to an athlete."

He studied at Bangkok College and speaks English well, apparently as a result of his attended Brentwood in London, where he graduated from high school last year.

"After high school, soccer has occupied so much of my time that I decided not to proceed to college right away," says the native of Bangkok, where he has become a celebrity.

He is a television host and gets invited as a celebrity in special events, an experience he describes as "interesting."

His popularity has earned him throngs of admirers. He admits to having a number of girlfriends—10 in the past 12 months—but emphasizes that his relationships "came one after the other."

Now, he wants to concentrate more on his soccer and hopefully follow the footsteps of his football idol, David Beckham in the near future by becoming "a professional player with a big team in Europe." *Cedelf Tupas, PDI Visayas Bureau*

6 golds at stake in Cebu SEA Gam

By Francis Ochoa

CEBU CITY—DOWN HERE, THEY HAVE an eye for only one color.

"Once you step into competition, you always aim for nothing less than the gold," said karateka Marna Pabillore.

That's exactly what the Philippine contingent here hopes to do when the competitions of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games hosted by this bustling southern city kick off in different venues.

Six gold medals will be at stake right in the first day of competitions, with dancesport eyed as the event that will turn on the ignition of the country's medal-churning machine here.

The tandems of Belinda Adora and Michael Mendoza and Dearlie Gerodias and Errol Melencio battle couples from seven other countries in the Latin dance event of the competition, which will be held at the Water Front Hotel grand ballroom.

Rico Rosima and Filomena Salvador and Emmanuel Reyes and Myra Rosete anchor the country's bid in the Standard category.

"We have a strong chance for the gold medal," said Ariel Llanilla, one of the dancesport coaches of the Philippines.

On a more physical battleground, the country's top karate athletes gun for four gold medals staked in their sport today.

While two-of-four has been the honest assessment of the squad's officials, the athletes were brimming with optimism during a casual break sandwiched between their final practice and a team therapy session at the Vacation Hotel.

"Our chances are good," said the statuesque Gretchen Malalad, the spearhead of the women's kumite team that also includes Pabillore, Cherli Tugday and Mae Eso. "It's hard to say how m[any] medals we will win but we can [as]sure people that we will give it our be[st] every time we step into competition."

Malalad is also the country's [top] 60kg kumite, where she has al[so] two gold medals in this biennial [meet] Cagayan de Oro-bred Pabillore, [on] the other hand, hopes to finish higher [than] ver medal she won in the 53kg [class] Malaysia.

The women's kumite squad [opens] campaign against darkhorse Vi[et] a.m. at the Mandaue City Sports [Center]

Sure women's long jump gold for RP as athletics starts

By Musong R. Castillo

A GOLD TO SPARK A WINDFALL.

Marestela Torres and Lerma Balauitan-Gabito try to outleap each other for the long jump gold as the centerpiece athletics event of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games gets going today at the age-old Rizal Memorial Stadium.

With no real threat in sight, Torres and Balauitan-Gabito are tipped to go head-to-head again in aiming for the victory the country hopes would trigger a golden rush in the medal-rich sport.

Also on tap starting at nine in the morning are the women's pole vault and high jump finals followed by the semifinals of both the men and women's century dash where Balauitan-Gabito is also entered.

Balauitan-Gabito's 100-meter heat includes Vu Thi Huong, the bronze medalist in the event in Veitnam, and the Filipina has a chance at landing a medal with Thais Oranut Klomdee and Juthamas Thavorncharoen, 1-2 two years ago, deciding to skip the event.

Long jump has been a private preserve of the Philippines with Elma Muros-Posadas dominating it in the last two decades after Lydia de Vega-Mercado's brief reign in 1983.

"We have the edge in this event with our two entries," national coach Jojo Posadas said in Filipino. "The personal best of both Torres and Gabito compared to those of the opposition practically guarantees us of winning the (women's) long jump."

Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association president Go Teng Kok has promised at least 10 victories in athletics with an outside chance for three more.

A total of 45 gold medals will be at stake and Go and the rest of the national team coaching staff expect several RP records to fall and maybe even some meet marks.

Muros-Posadas still owns the SEAG long jump mark of 6.52 meters set in 1989, but Torres' leap in Incheon, South Korea during the Asian track-fest last September of 6.63 meters is the new RP mark.

On the other hand, Balauitan-Gabito once leapt to a distance of 6.56 meters and has breached the 6.40 mark this year.

The Philippines has not won the overall championship in athletics and now aims to dethrone powerhouse Thailand, which will be fielding a total of 78 bets in an effort to at least duplicate a 22-gold haul in Vietnam two years ago.

"I think 13 would be a reasonable number for us and enough for the Philippines to win the overall (title in athletics)," Go told the INQUIRER. "Our initial forecast was a maximum of 15, but after seeing the competitors from the other (countries), I think 13 is the realistic number."

Mikaela Santos, the RP record holder in pole vault at 3.20 meters, is one of two Filipino entries in the event together with Deborah Samson.

Both will have their hands full with Vietnamese Le Thi Phuong and Malaysian Roslinda Samsu entered.

Samsu chalked up her personal best of 4.20 meters this year, while the Vietnamese bet has cleared 4.05 meters also this season. Samson has a personal best of 4.00 meters.

Narcisa Atienza will be the lone RP entry in the high jump and will battle two bets each from Thailand and Vietnam. Atienza's personal best of 1.81 stands as the new RP mark, but it pales in comparison to the 1.94 of Viet Nguyen Thi Ngoc Tam and Thai ace Noeng-Ruthai Chaipech's 1.91.

MARESTELA Torres, the region's finest long jumper, is virtually unbeatable in her event.

Ralph Waldy Soguilon, whose claim to a new UAAP record was denied because of the lack of a wind gauge, gets his chance at redemption when he sees action in the first 100-meter semifinal heat. Aranold Villarube is entered in heat two.

Honey Joy Ortaliz will run in the second semifinal of the women's 100m. *With a report from Hazel Sanculi, Contributor*

Filipino

By Christian Irl Tan, *PDI*

BACOLOD CITY—THE [Fili]pino women's squads hope t[o] good showing in the 23r[d] today when they collide [with] start of the indoor volleyb[all] refurbished West Negros C[ollege]

The RP male spikers w[ill] p.m., while the RP volleyb[all] at 2 p.m.

"The chances are eve[n] strong team and we have [a] captain Ariel Dela Cruz sai[d]

The RP men's team is [in] medal drought. The Philip[pines] medal in men's play wh[en] meet in Manila in 1991.

IT'S TIME ONCE AG[AIN] the winner from the lo[ser] the hero from the heel.

There's need for th[is] Games, which will go f[or] spectacular opening ri[te]

But first, some basic [facts]

Eleven countries, in[cluding] represented here for [the] 5,336 athletes particip[ate]

The visiting countr[ies] Timor Leste, Indonesi[a] Singapore, Thailand a[nd]

You include the 2,3[00] ticipating nations and [their] people directly involve[d]

Being the host natio[n] ber of athletes particip[ating] simple: We have lesse[r]

Unlike us, the fore[ign] budgets for plane far[es] poor country like us a[nd]

Timor Leste, which

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

the Indonesians, 2-0, for their first win in the five-
AUGUST DE LA CRUZ

Indonesia booters post first win after two draws

By Cedelf Tupas, *PDI Visayas Bureau*

BACOLOD CITY—HELD TO TWO SCORELESS DRAWS in its past two games, Indonesia finally broke through, squeaking past Vietnam, 1-0, to stay on track for the second semifinal seat in the Southeast Asian Games men's football tournament at the Bacolod City Sports Complex here.

The Indonesians found a hero in goalkeeper Samsidar and substitute Saktiawan Sinaga, whose hustle in front of the goalmouth forced Vietnam defender Chau La Pouc Vihn to an own goal in the 65th minute.

GAME TODAY (*Panaad Stadium, Bacolod City*)
4:30 p.m.—Malaysia vs. Thailand

The victory shoved Indonesia to second place in the so-called "Group of Death" with a 1-win, 2-draw record for five points, behind Vietnam, which already claimed the first semis berth after its 1-0 win against Myanmar Thursday.

Singapore (0-0-1) was playing third-running Laos (1-0-1) at presstime in another crucial match.

Vietnam did not field star strikers Le Cong Vinh and Phan Van Quyen together, giving them additional rest heading into the semis, where they will face the No. 2 team in Group A.

Samsidar kept his composure in the second half, parrying away shots by Vinh and Huyn Quoc in injury time.

Meanwhile, Group A leaders Thailand and Malaysia collide today with the Thais expected to come out more aggressive, after an uninspiring 1-0 win over the Philippines.

But the Filipino booters, who ended a 10-year losing streak following a 4-2 triumph over Cambodia, still need to prevail over the favored Malaysians on Tuesday to keep their semifinal hopes alive no matter the result of today's match.

Malacañang welcomes SEA Games delegates

AS THE NATIONAL FLAGS OF THE 11 participating countries in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games were raised in traditional rites at the Rizal Park yesterday, Malacañang welcomed all delegates and wished them luck in the biennial conclave which opens tomorrow.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said in a statement that the government is one with the entire Filipino people in wishing all participants the best of luck in the region's biggest sporting event.

"This is another great opportunity for Filipinos to showcase our talent in the world of sports and friendly competition with our neighbors," Bunye said.

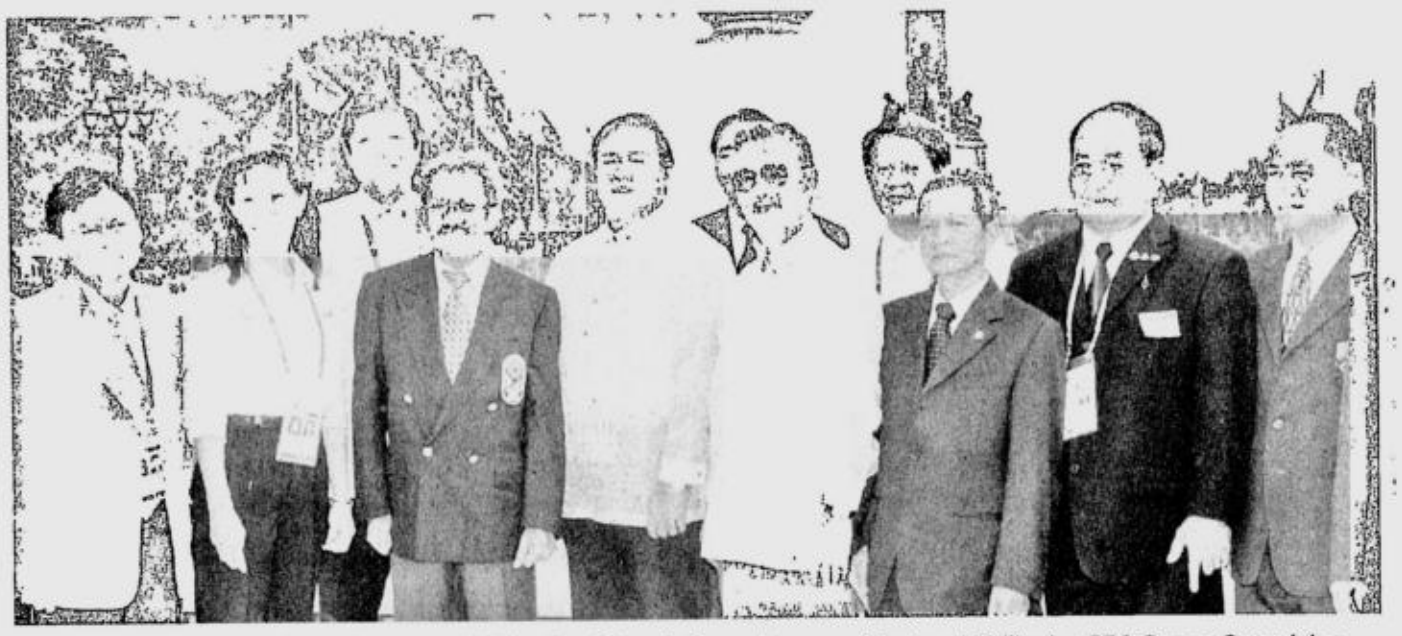
What matters

"More than reaping the medals at stake, what matters is how we portray the fundamental values of our race —hospitality, friendship and humility," he added.

First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo led sports and local officials in the flag-raising ceremony.

"We welcome all of you," said Arroyo who is also the Chef de Mission of the Philippine delegation during the rites held at the Rizal monument at the Luneta.

"It's a great honor for the Philippines to host the Southeast Asian Games and all the participants," he added.



FIRST Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo and Philippine Olympic Committee president and Philippine SEA Games Organizing Committee CEO Jose "Peping" Cojuangco (fifth and seventh from left) with Chef de Missions of the 11 participating countries in yesterday's flag-raising ceremonies at the Rizal Park.
REM ZAMORA

...nes action

...gold
...re the
...ot ev-

...n the
...won
...t. The
...e oth-
...he sil-
...ory in

...ns its
...n at 9
...plex.

"There are a lot of strong teams out there," Malalad said. "The ones that really come to mind are Malaysia, Vietnam and Indonesia."

"We promise to give it our best for the people," added Pabillore.

The men's kumite squad, also one of the strongest bets for the gold medal, is made up of Bernardino Chu, Irenio Toribio, Nelson Pacalso, Juneal Parania and Homer Panal.

Apart from karate and dancesport, judo, sepak takraw, pencak silat and mountain bike will also be contested here.

It's more than just good choreography

CEBU CITY—IT'S NOT JUST DANCing skills that's going to make a champion.

The country's danceports squad, aware its going to take more than a graceful sway of the hips and lithe body movements to win the gold medal, did more than just your basic choreography when they prepared for the 23rd Southeast Asian Games.

According to coach Ariel Llanilla, the dancers were put through a regimen that included stability training, endurance training, stamina training, and conditioning aside from their skills training.

And even after having gone through rigorous preparation, Llanilla admits overall performance will be boosted by other factors.

"They (RP dancesport bets) will be judged by their poise and execution of the steps," Llanilla said. "Costume and audience impact will also help."

With all eyes glued to the sport after the hype that it will deliver the country's first gold in the biennial meet, Llanilla is confident that the dancers will deliver.

"We have a good chance for the gold," he said, adding that the squad, made up of young talents and veterans, is "well-trained and has various experiences in other international competitions overseas. *Marc Anthony Camasura, contributor*

RP dancers in for tough opposition

CEBU CITY—OKAY, SO MAYBE FOUR MAY have been too high a number for the dancesport team.

After boldly predicting that the event is the country's for the taking in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games, a top official of dancesports reduced his prediction from four to two gold medals.

"Before, I could confidently claim that we are superior in this part of Asia," said dancesports Cebu City director Ed Hayco. "But our rivals have trained five times more than we have and their government had spent five times more than we did to help their athletes so our chances still remain in question."

The sport was in the spotlight in the days leading up to the SEA Games after being tagged as the likely source of the first gold medal for the country at the Water Front Hotel.

But it seems the other participants in the sport, which is making its debut in the SEAG, are not going to yield without a fight.

Thailand and Singapore, two teams that have been under the radar as far as the sport is concerned, have undergone rigid training in England.

The country will be bannered by internationalists and homegrown Cebuano talents Dearlie Gerodias and Erolle Melencio and Michael Mendoza and Belinda Adora who will be strutting their wares in the Latin Division.

The other members of the squad are Emmanuel Reyes and Myra Rosete and Rico Rosima and Filomena Salvador.

The four pairs will be going against 17 other couples from Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. *Marian Baring, Cebu Daily News*

...spikers plunge into action today

...as Bureau

...PPINE MEN AND ...tinue the country's ...heast Asian Games ...parate rivals at the ...silities at the newly ... Gymnasium here. ...e on Myanmar at 5 ...vill battle Singapore

...use Myanmar is a ...red for that," team

...g to end a 14-year ...last snared a bronze ...hosted the biennial

GAMES TODAY
(W. Negros College Gym)
2 p.m.—Philippines vs. Singapore (women)
3:30 p.m.—Thailand vs. Vietnam (men)
5 p.m.—Philippines vs. Myanmar (men)

"The team that plays better service-reception and blocking will win," Dela Cruz, one of only four holdovers from the national team that placed fifth in the 2003 SEA Games in Vietnam, said.

Aside from Dela Cruz, the rookie-laden Philippine squad is also expected to rely on veterans Oliver Balse, Herminio Gallo and Gino Macailan.

"Youth is not a weakness because the veterans have been guiding the newcomers really well. I am confident that we could improve the result in Vietnam," coach Ernesto Pamilar said. "Hopefully, the home crowd edge will catapult us to the finals."

The RP spikers are also expecting inspiring plays from Negrenses Edcer Penetrante and Aristeo Billena, who will see action in front of their provincemates in an international event for the first time.

"I do my best every time I have a chance to play. I do not want to let my country, especially Negros down," Penetrante, whose elder sister Maureen is with the RP women's team, said.

Defending champion Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam are expected to be the nationals' toughest rivals in the five-team tournament that will use a single-round robin format with the top two squads advancing to the finals.

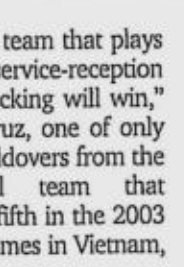
The RP volleybelles of Ramil De Jesus will be anchored by setter Cristina Salak and team captain Roxanne Pimentel.

The women's squad is eyeing to improve its bronze medal finish in the 2003 Games.

THE RP lady spikers (white jersey) will have their hands full against rivals led by Thailand.

Champion

SPECTATOR



Al S. Mendoza

...O DIFFERENTIATE host from the visitor,

...eu of the 23rd SEA ...t after the expectedly ...y at the Luneta. ... ponder on. ...: the Philippines, are ...mes, with a total of 3,177 of them men. ... Brunei, Cambodia, Malaysia, Myanmar, ...nam. ...ials from the 11 par- ...ave a total of 7,665 ... Games. ...ave the biggest num- ...ith 892. The reason's ...es than our visitors. ...ntingents have huge ...t alone could cost a ... ...y gained its indepen-

dence from Indonesia, has the smallest representation with only 29 athletes and 15 officials.

There are 16 places playing host to nearly 50 disciplines: Manila, Marikina, Antipolo, Quezon City, Laguna, Makati, Muntinlupa, Pasay, Pasig, Parañaque, Taguig, Angeles City, Subic, Cebu, Bacolod and Tagaytay.

We won 49 gold medals in 2003 in Vietnam—good only for fourth.

This time, they say the overall championship is within sight. To achieve that, we must win the most number of gold medals from a total of nearly 440 gold medals at stake in the Games ending Dec. 5.

You think that's achievable?

Methinks so.

If it's any indication, we missed the championship by one gold medal in 1991, the last time the SEA Games were held here.

Almost traditionally, the host country wins the Games. This is so because a host is usually given the widest latitude to choose the disciplines to be played.

To illustrate, Vietnam struck out golf in 2003 because it did not have a gold-prospect from its golfers. As a result Vietnam won the overall crown.

We restored golf back because we might yet sweep all the four gold medals in this sport, which we had been dominating since 1987. We won three of the four golf gold medals the last time the Games were held here in 1991. We could probably sweep all four this year, but that's another column waiting to be written.

There's a big difference between a winner and a loser in that the winner, as the song goes, "takes it all."

There's a big difference between a host and a visitor in that the host, as hospitable Filipinos love to say, "gives it all."

There's a big difference between a hero and a heel in that the hero, as our schoolteachers tell us, "inspires us all."

The three—winner, hero and visitor—are interconnected: Both the winner and hero are often visited.

Who would visit a loser, a heel?

To me, one visiting a loser, a heel, is the real winner, the true hero.

When was the last time you visited Louie Espinosa, or Romy Jalosjos for that matter?

There are many kinds of champions, many ways to define a champion.

And a gold medalist, like a winner in an electoral contest, isn't necessarily a champion, if you know what I mean.

* * *

FASTBREAK. My deepest condolences to the families of Louie Tabuena, Georgina Go and Teddy Yabes. May God grant peace to the souls of Louie, Georgina and Teddy.

BaSoc to issue new VIP passes

BACOLOD CITY—THE BACOLOD SOUTHEAST Asian Games Organizing Committee has revoked the 500 VIP passes it issued last week for security reasons.

BaSoc secretary general Eric Loretizo yesterday said they would issue new VIP passes with proper security markings and proper codes.

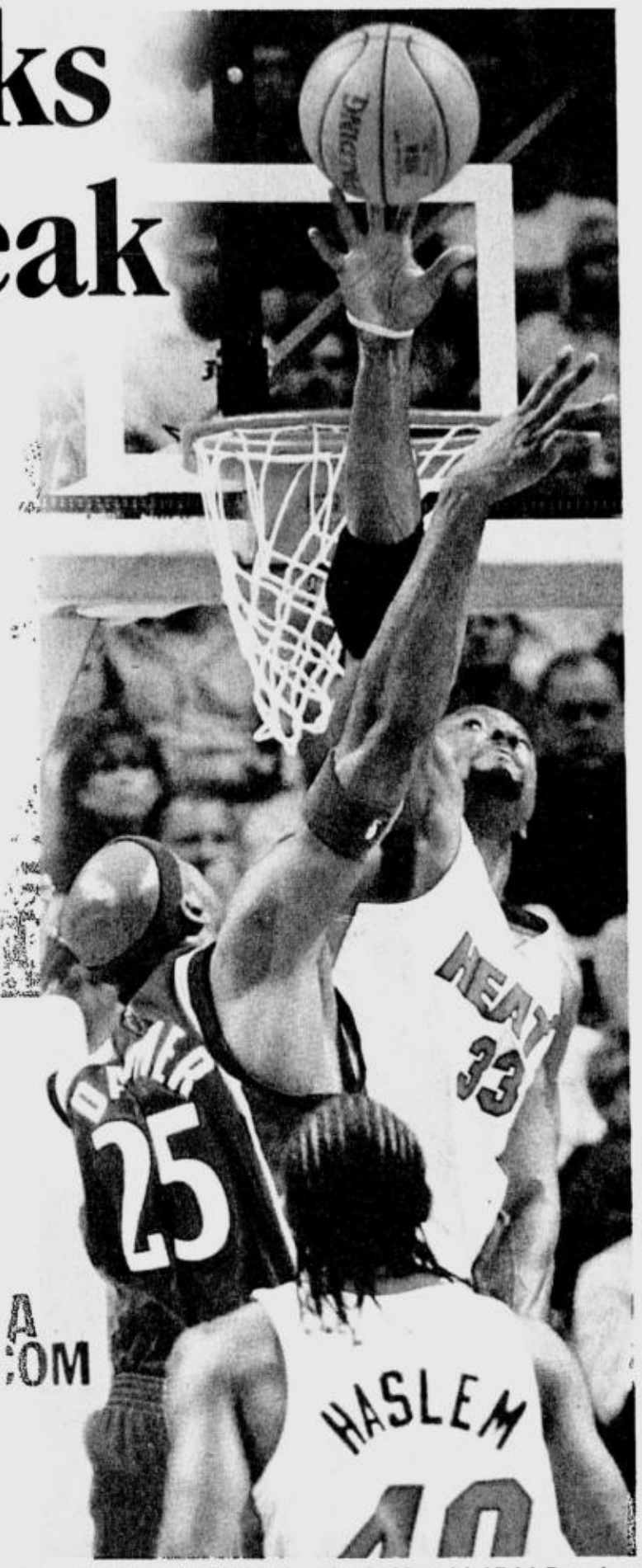
Apparently dozens of fake VIP passes were presented at the gates of the different playing venues, especially at the Panaad Stadium.

As a result, he said there were so many unfamiliar people seated in the VIP area, which can only accommodate 500 persons.

Loretizo said the VIP passes are issued to dignitaries, local government functionaries or officials, international and national sports executives and Asean dignitaries who have no accreditation passes from the Philippine SEA Games Organizing Committee. *Cedelf Tupas*

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Mavs cool Heat; Hawks snap road losing streak



HEAT'S Alonzo Mourning blocks a shot by Mavericks' Erick Dampier during their NBA game in Miami, Florida. REUTERS

MIAMI—JOSH HOWARD SCORED 25 POINTS and grabbed 11 rebounds Friday as the Dallas Mavericks squandered most of a 15-point lead before recovering to beat the Miami Heat, 103-90.

Dirk Nowitzki added 23 points for Dallas, which extended its league-best winning streak to seven games and snapped Miami's string of six straight home wins. Erick Dampier scored 17 points, Marquis Daniels added 14 and Jason Terry had 10 points and 10 assists for the Mavericks.

Jason Williams scored a season-high 24 points for Miami, which lost for only the eighth time in its last 61 home regular-season games.

Dwyane Wade added 23 for the Heat, which also got 14 from Udonis Haslem, and 13 from Alonzo Mourning—who also had six blocks, adding to his NBA-leading average this season.

Hawks 87, Pacers 85

At Indianapolis, Al Harrington scored 17 points and Joe Johnson added 16 points, seven rebounds and nine assists as Atlanta edged Indiana.

Atlanta (2-9) won its second straight despite shooting 36 percent from the field. The victory snapped a seven-game road losing streak that dated to last season and ended the Pacers' seven-game winning streak in the series. It was Atlanta's first win over Indiana since March 22, 2003.

The Pacers (7-4) were led by Jermaine O'Neal with 30 points and 10 rebounds. Sarunas Jasikevicius added 14 points.

Timberwolves 99, Bucks 91

At Minneapolis, Kevin Garnett had 17 points, 12 rebounds and six assists—doing most of his damage after receiving six stitches in the chin in the third quarter—and Minnesota beat Milwaukee.

Wally Szczerbiak had a season-high 30 points and Marko Jaric added a season-high 24 for Minnesota, which improved to 6-1 at home. Trenton Hassell scored 12 points and Troy Hudson had 10.

Michael Redd scored 28 points and Jamaal Magliore had 14 points and 10 rebounds to lead the Bucks, who have lost three of four. Mo Williams had 13 points, T.J. Ford had 12 and Bobby Simmons added 11.

Celtics 90, Bobcats 89

At Boston, Paul Pierce scored 27 points and made a layup with 0.3 seconds left to lift struggling Boston over Charlotte.

The Celtics had lost two straight—including a road loss on Wednesday that gave the Atlanta Hawks their first win of the season—and four of five. The Bobcats fell to 1-6 on the road and 4-9 overall.

Ricky Davis added 25 points and Raef LaFrentz finished with 22 and 10 rebounds for the Celtics.

Gerald Wallace and Brevin Knight each had 17 points to lead Charlotte. Emeka Okafor added 13 points and 11 rebounds.

Magic 104, Trail Blazers 89

At Orlando, Florida, Jameer Nelson scored a season-high 24 points and Dwight Howard added 21 points and 18 rebounds as Orlando beat Portland.

Steve Francis added 12 points and nine assists for the Magic, who matched their season-high winning streak at two games.

Complete results

Orlando 104, Portland 89; Boston 90, Charlotte 89; Atlanta 87, Indiana 85; Dallas 103, Miami 90; Memphis 86, Houston 81; Minnesota 99, Milwaukee 91; Washington 120, Detroit 114 (OT); Chicago 106, San Antonio 99; Golden State 94, Utah 90; Denver 105, LA Clippers 95; Sacramento 106, Toronto 104; Phoenix 92, New Jersey 81.

NBA on Solar

The Cleveland Cavaliers try to start another streak and extend their undefeated start at home when they host the Minnesota Timberwolves today. After winning eight straight games, the Cavaliers suffered an embarrassing road loss to the Indiana Pacers and dropped to 9-3. They are 6-0 at The Q with an average winning margin of more than 20 points. The Timberwolves, on the other hand, will be playing the backend of back-to-back games. They beat the Milwaukee Bucks, 99-91, yesterday at home for their sixth win in 11 games.

EMILY Hughes of the US performs her short program during the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating-Cup of Russia in St. Petersburg. REUTERS

WORLD GYMNASTICS

Liukin claims gold; two Chinese prevail

MELBOURNE—AMERICA'S NASTIA Liukin gained a measure of revenge over compatriot Chellsie Memmel when she took world championship gold in the uneven bars on Saturday, a day after losing out to her rival in the all around event.

Five titles were decided on the first day of individual discipline finals, with Chinese gymnasts taking two golds on offer, a historic first for a male Brazilian competitor and a victory for the Netherlands.

The 16-year-old Liukin put in a flowing routine to earn a score of 9.662 on Saturday to add a gold to the silver she picked up in the all around event, where she finished an agonising 0.001 of a point behind Memmel.

"I knew I'd hit my routine and I knew I had a good chance of getting a medal. When I landed I was just so excited," she said.

Defending co-champion from the 2003 championships, Memmel scored 9.587 to take silver, while Britain's Beth Tweddle won bronze with a tidy 9.575.

China enjoyed a good start to the individual disciplines when Cheng Fei won gold in the women's vault and Xiao Qin took the men's pommel horse title.

The 17-year-old Cheng, who was last year's Chinese national champion on the balance beam and floor, scored a combined total of 9.656 to ease to gold.

Her strong first vault included a back somersault with a straight back position and two and a half twists to set up victory with a 9.725 mark.

A large contingent of flag-waving Chinese supporters cheered on Cheng, who scored 9.587 with her second vault to finish ahead of 30-year-old veteran Oxana Chusovitina of Uzbekistan, who totalled 9.418.

American newcomer Alicia Sacramone scored 9.412 to take the bronze medal.

Xiao scored an impressive 9.850 on the pommel horse to capture gold ahead of Romania's Ioan Silviu Suciu (9.700). *Reuters*

Wie has long way to go vs male players

KOCHI, JAPAN—US TEENAGER Michelle Wie may be a new icon of professional golf but statistics show she has a long way to go if she is to pose a serious threat when competing on the men's tour.

The Korean-American high school girl from Hawaii missed the cut by one stroke at the 1.2 million dollar Casio World Open on Friday, failing to reach the final round in a men's event for a sixth time.

"I don't know if it proves anything that I almost made the cut," the photogenic 16-year-old said. "I tried as hard as I can this week and it shows that it's possible. And, hopefully, next time I can do it." And statistics show why she could not.

As usual, Wie struggled with her short games but dazzled with booming drives that at times exceeded 300 yards, a rare feat for women.

But, as the only woman in a field of 100, she ranked 84th in the average distance of shots off the tee on the long sample holes, the 10th and 18th, during the first two rounds on the 7,220-yard Kuroshio Country Club course.

Her average was 261.50 yards, against the longest distance of 297.50 yards scored by 18-year-old South African Matthew Kent. Kent also carded a two-round total of 148 as Wie and failed to qualify.

WIE: "I tried as hard as I can."

All told, Wie drove over 300 yards four times, including a 320-yard shot down the line on the 470-yard 16th hole in the first round.

In putting, she ranked 57th with an average 1.913 times, compared with the best average of 1.600 times by Toshimitsu Izawa. He shared the lead with three other Japanese pros after two rounds at 138, 10 strokes better than Wie.

"I don't know if she was good at putting or not good at it," said 33-year-old veteran Shinichi Yokota, one of Wie's two partners in the first two rounds. He stood four strokes off the pace at the halfway point.

"At first, I tried not to be outdone by her. But I was a member of her cheering squad in the end," said Yokota. *AFP*

'The other Fred' joins Couples, Tiger, Sorenstam in Skins Game

LA QUINTA, CALIFORNIA—POOR FRED FUNK. He gets invited to the Skins Game for the first time, and all he hears from Tiger Woods is that he'll face eternal grief if Annika Sorenstam outdrives him even once.

Woods was at it again Friday, chiding Funk some 24 hours before the foursome—which includes Mr. Skins himself, Fred Couples—stepped up to the first tee.

Sorenstam was talking about how hard it is for her to win skins on the par-5s against "these long hitters" when Woods saw an opening.

"Two of us are long hitters," Woods chimed in.

"Oh yeah, sorry," Sorenstam said.

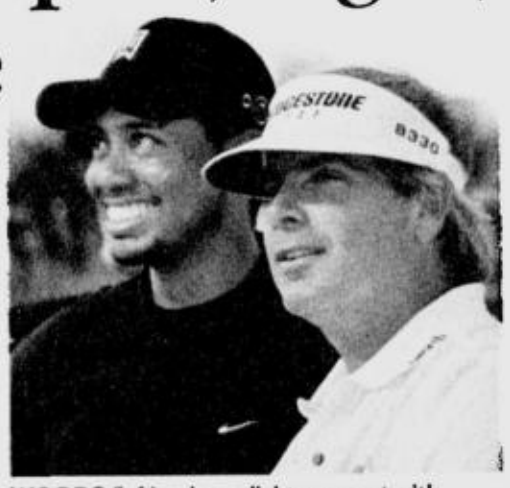
"It's already starting," the easygoing Funk said.

The 49-year-old Funk, known for his short but straight tee shots, has taken the sarcasm good-naturedly ever since Woods started it at the Presidents Cup dinner in September.

"I just mentioned to Tiger that I'd just found out that I was in the Skins," Funk said. 'And he says, 'You know, Annika's the fourth.' And I said, 'Really, I'm the fourth.' And he said, 'Well, if she outdrives you, you'll never hear the end of it.'"

The first nine holes of the made-for-television exhibition will be played Saturday and the final nine Sunday at the par-72, 7,055-yard Trilogy Golf Club in the middle of the desert.

Last year, Couples won his record fifth Skins Game with a total of $640,000 (euro544,100). *AP*



WOODS (left) enjoys a light moment with Couples during the pro-am of the Skins Game at Trilogy Golf Club in La Quinta, Calif. AP

Hall of Famer Stevens retires from riding

LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY—HALL OF FAME jockey Gary Stevens, a three-time winner of the Kentucky Derby, announced his retirement from riding on Friday after a 26-year career.

Stevens, 42, said he will become a racing analyst with TVG, the interactive horse racing network.

"There is a piece of my heart that would love to continue riding, but my body can't take it anymore," Stevens said. "Between weight concerns and the limited number of mounts I am riding, the reward is just not there anymore. The injuries I have sustained over the years have caught up with me." Stevens, who has won more than 5,000 races, will end his career with a pair of mounts at Churchill Downs on Saturday. He will begin his new career with TVG in January.

Stevens, who won the Kentucky Derby aboard Winning Colors (1988), Thunder Gulch (1995) and Silver Charm (1997), won the Preakness twice and the Belmont Stakes on three occasions.

He has also had a taste of show business fame, playing jockey George "The Iceman" Woolf in the 2003 blockbuster film. *AFP*

GEORGE Best (right) and fellow football legend Pele during an awards luncheon for Pele in Los Angeles in April 1978. AP PHOTO

Football star Best to be buried in Belfast

BELFAST—FOOTBALL STAR GEORGE BEST, WHO DIED aged 59 on Friday, will be buried in his native Belfast next to his mother, his agent Phil Hughes said.

Best, born in the Northern Irish capital, died in intensive care at a private west London hospital after losing his long battle against alcoholism.

His mother Ann is buried in the Roselawn cemetery in the Castlereagh hills above east Belfast. She died in 1978 aged 54.

Hughes said: "It will definitely be in Belfast, that's where George told me he always wanted it.

"When the subject came up, his father Dickie said to me he would like to take him home to Belfast. It was both their wishes."

The funeral is expected to be one of the biggest Belfast has ever seen. No date has been announced but it could be held as early as next week.

Best won 37 international caps for Northern Ireland.

Jim Boyce, president of the Irish Football Association, said many of the game's greats would attend his funeral to pay their last respects.

He said: "George is a Belfast boy known throughout the world as a Belfast boy and it's only right he should be buried here. "There will be people from all over the soccer world and those who were his friends will want to be here.

"I don't think football will ever see his like again. He was a wonderful player and I was privileged to call him a friend."

In Belfast, fans laid flowers, shirts and pictures of Best at his father's home and at murals dedicated to the football star. *AFP*

Patrimonio lifts Legends; Canaleta is king of slam

By June Navarro

LAOAG CITY—ALVIN PATRIMONIO IS A LEGEND IN THE Philippine Basketball Association because he knows how to deal with pressure.

Enduring countless nerve-wracking situations during his career, the league's four-time MVP survived another one yesterday by spearheading the legends' team to victory in the Legends Shootout competition of the Talk 'N Text-PBA All-Star side events here.

Patrimonio canned the money ball on the final rack and gave his team a 41-39 squeaker over the current crop of shooters in the league composed of Air21's Renren Ritualo, Dondon Hontiveros of San Miguel Beer and reigning three-point king Jimmy Alapag of Talk 'N Text.

"I did it for the fans," said Patrimonio, who momentarily came out of retirement to join former PBA stars Ronnie Magsanoc and Frankie Lim in the legends' squad. "They (fans) deserved that kind of treat, especially in the All-Stars."

Following Magsanoc's 12 points and Lim's 15, the legends trailed the present batch of snipers, 27-39, putting the pressure on Patrimonio to score at least 12 points to force a playoff.

But "The Captain" showed the stuff superstars are made of, tying the count on the final ball in the fourth shelf, missing the next four attempts before draining his final shot for the win.

Hontiveros had 16 points, Ritualo made 12 while Alapag scored 11 in the event supported by Chowking, Accel, Xtreme Magic Sing, Air 21, Eurolux, PGA Cars, Britmix, Richwell Trading, Westmont Pharmaceuticals, Toy Kingdom, Tobi's House of Nuts, First Quadrant, Purefoods and Laoag City Mayor Mike Fariñas.

In the slam dunk competition, rookie Niño Canaleta wowed the crowd and elicited awe from his opponents as the Air21 forward won the event in convincing fashion.

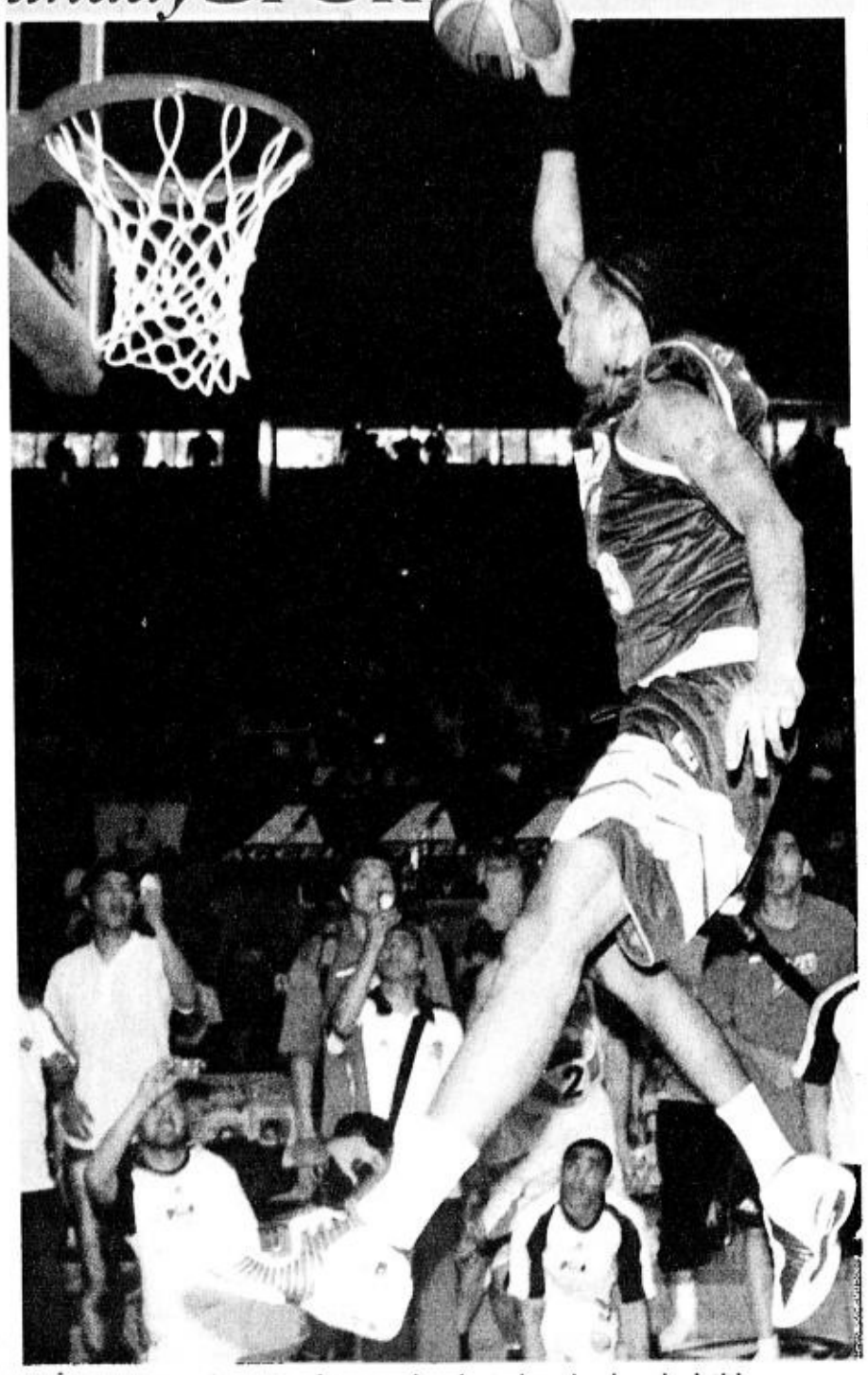
Enrico Villanueva of Red Bull got to figure in the finals with his ingenuity and originality but Canaleta's rim-rattling slams pulled him through.

Canaleta soared just after the 15-foot line, pumped the leather into the air and stuffed the one-hander to gain a perfect 50 and clinch the slam dunk title won by Red Bull's Cyrus Baguio in Cebu City last year. Baguio failed to defend his title due to a leg injury.

"I really enjoy getting the crowd on their feet because it stimulates me to perform better," said Canaleta, the undisputable slam dunk king during his amateur days in the Philippine Basketball League.

Villanueva placed second after the elimination round while Niño Gelig of Talk 'N Text wound up third. Rich Alvarez of Alaska was also impressive with his elevation and power but Gelig edged him, 94-93, after two attempts in the preliminaries.

Nelbert Omolon of Sta. Lucia Realty, San Miguel's Eugene Tejada, Mike Holper of Barangay Ginebra, Coca-Cola's Neil Rañeses and Marc Pingris of Purefoods fared poorly in eliminations.



NIÑO "KG" Canaleta soars for a one-hander to bag the slam dunk title. RYAN LIM

Devance steps up as Toyota Otis wins

JOE DEVANCE FINALLY WOKE UP FROM A long stupor yesterday as Toyota Otis snapped a two-game losing run with a thrilling 72-63 win over Montaña Pawnshop in the 2006 PBL Heroes Cup at the JCSGO Gym in Cubao.

Toyota Otis actually got off to a roaring start before Devance stepped up big to give his team a morale boost before the league takes a break starting today to give way to the country's hosting of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games.

Held scoreless in the first eight minutes of the final period in the face of Montaña's sticky defense, the 6-foot-7 Devance scored back-to-back baskets on brilliant give-and-go plays to help Toyota foil Montaña's searing comeback.

In the second game, Hapee-PCU lost a 15-point lead in the third quarter but recovered just in time to down Harbour Centre, 70-63.

With the Teethmasters trailing 52-55, Robert Sans knocked in back-to-back treys and Jofferson Gonzalez added a triple in a crippling 12-4 run to unnerve the Port Masters, 64-58.

STANDINGS	W	L
Magnolia	5	0
R.or Shine	3	2
Granny G	3	2
Montaña	3	3
Harbour	2	3
Hapee	2	3
Toyota Otis	2	4
Far Eastern	1	4

It was the third win for Hapee-PCU in six starts while the Port Masters absorbed their fourth straight loss to drop to 2-4 in a tie with Toyota Otis. The Montaña Jewels slipped to 3-3.

A big letdown in the team's last two games, Devance played with a killer's instinct this time, drilling a game-high 21 points on 9-of-17 shooting. He grabbed 13 rebounds, dished out two assists and blocked two shots in 31 minutes of play.

Aaron Aban chipped in 11 points and six rebounds as Toyota Otis improved to 2-4. The Montaña Jewels slipped to 3-3.

The Jewels, who figured in the finals of the last two conferences, refused to give up the fight and clawed their way back into the contest through the efforts of Reed Juntilla, Paul Guerrero and Alex Compton.

Juntilla led the Jewels with 15 points as Compton, struggling offensively, finished with just 10 on a horrendous 4-of-16 shooting.

The scores:

First Game

TOYOTA OTIS 72—Devance 21, Aban 11, Bautista 7, Capati 7, Rodriguez 6, Aldave 5, Oreta 4, Larong 4, Andaya 3, Tagupa 2, Alcaraz 2, Daa 0, Pinera 0.

MONTAÑA 63—Juntilla 15, vergara 12, Compton 10, Baguion 7, Guerrero 6, Dela Cuesta 4, Espiritu 4, Mercado 4, Capus 1, Bono 0, Castro 0, Tolentino 0.

Quarters: 13-9, 38-22, 56-38, 72-63

Second Game

HAPEE-PCU 70—Sanz 13, Castro 13, Gonzales 11, Moreno 8, Espinas 6, Razon 6, Solis 6, Misa 3, Cecilla 2, Baculi 2.

HARBOUR CENTRE 63—Yeo 17, Arellano 12, Paterno 10, Reyes 6, Luanzon 6, Raymundo 3, Gaco 2, Abadia 2, Alonzo 2, Dela Peña 3, Saguindel 1, Vicente 0, Lagabala 0.

Quarters: 14-12, 38-23, 50-49, 70-63

Isabela, N. Ecija ahead in Fil-Am Seniors

BAGUIO CITY—ISABELA GOLF CLUB SHOWED THE way in Flight D while Nueva Ecija Golf Team paced Flight E of the Fil division at the start of the second Fil-Am Seniors Invitational at the short Baguio Country Club yesterday.

Led by Moe Molina's 27 points, Isabela aggregated 93 for a one-point lead over 320 GC. Backing up Molina were Noel Binag and Matthew Chin who had 24 points each and Benedict Caldenon, who contributed 18.

Nueva Ecija totaled 101 to open up a 24-point spread over Zamboanga and Batch 92/Dehha GC, which posted 77s under the Stableford scoring system.

Marlou Soriano starred for the Ecija golfers with 30 points. Mario Villasan backed him up with 26 and Danilo de la Cruz and Edwin Paras put in 23 and 22, respectively.

With most of the entries still out at the BCC and the nearby Camp John Hay courses, organizers announced the return of powerhouse Nike for the regular Fil-Am tournament starting on Dec. 5.

Nike had earlier told organizers it won't be able to defend its Fil and Am titles two weeks ago.

"We are mighty glad that Nike is playing, after all," BCC GM Anthony de Leon said yesterday.

"With that change of heart, the competition will be tight again," echoed Camp John Hay Golf Club GM Bong Vilchez, who heads the executive committee with De Leon.

Nike made history in the tournament, listed in the Guinness Book of Records as the world's biggest in terms of total entries, when it swept the major championships last year in its first try.

Nike team manager Tommy Manotoc had earlier told De Leon and Vilchez they won't be playing because Juvic Pagunsan, Jun Bernis and Jay Bayron would be very tired after playing in the Southeast Asian Games.

Chamorro came up with 87 to take third place in Flight D, followed by City Mortgage of Hawaii 76, JJ Golf Team and Stallion Golf Team 68 each, and Sustagen Premium I 61.

Baguio Country Club Centennial Team and Wilson tied for fourth in Flight E with 74s, followed by Watercraft Ventures Corp. 72 and Victory Liner 63.

Aside from Flights D and E, competition also started in the Fil and Am divisions and Flights A, B, C and F.

Thirty-six teams are competing in the seniors division of the tournament with Smart Communications, Wilson Sports, Eva Air and Club Car as major sponsors.

Close fight for Orchard Invt'l plums

TONIGHT'S THE NIGHT FOR TOURNAMENT winners of The Orchard Founders Golf Invitational after four days of exciting competition at the Player and Palmer courses of The Orchard Golf and Country Club in Dasmariñas, Cavite.

After the completion of Friday's first half of play, the tandems of Art Tugade-Rolly Enriquez and Roland Kraut-Richard Joson were ahead in the race for the overall title in the tourney which has Globe Telecoms, Ford Philippines, Golf King, Sta. Elena Properties Inc. and Sta. Lucia Realty & Development Corp. as major sponsors and Security Bank Corp./Diners, PCSO and Pagcor as premium hole sponsors.

Tugade-Enriquez combined for a 16-under net of 52 points in the best-ball format at the Player course, while Kraut (42) and Joson (45) teamed up for 87 at the Palmer. There were many teams, however, which can still steal the win when they return for the weekend play.

In the low gross competition, Jenz Tecson-Bobby Celestino (66) took a two-point edge over Pouie Tugade-Eric Gozo at Palmer and Stephen King Stehmeier-Seve Roxas Chua (39) paced Pete Cervantes-Mike Osmeña by just a point.

For those already out of the running, they still have the raffle prizes to look forward to.

There's P1.4 million worth of appliances, gadgets and golf items to be given away in the tournament raffle and grand raffle draw to be hosted by Ms Vernie Varga and Boboy Garrovillo with the Spirit of 67 providing entertainment.

The ninth edition of The Orchard Founders Invitational has become the biggest in its long history with over 700 players on the roster. They each received a premium Ashworth jacket from Golf King as well as many freebies on the course.

Lucky ticket buyers will be driving home a BMW Msport and a Nissan Cefiro Classic which are the main prizes in the Grand Raffle, said Orchard general manager Rene Garrovillo.

WBL ACTION: Players from the School of St. Anthony and the Community of Learners Foundation scramble for possession in a recent Women's Basketball League (WBL) action. The Milo-backed league, organized and founded by the BEST Center of Nic Jorge, has six elementary, 22 high school, and eight collegiate teams seeing action every weekend at San Beda College gyms on Mendiola and in Alabang.

Thywillbedone makes it happen in RP-Japan Cup

By Edwin Villanueva, *Contributor*

THE INSTRUCTION FOR VETERAN JOCKEY Elpidio Aguila was plain and simple. Never let Don Paolo set his own pace and range Thywillbedone within striking distance.

Thywillbedone did not allow Don Paolo to get out of his sight and got a lot of help from Cat's Gold to rule the RP-Japan Friendship Cup race yesterday at the San Lazaro Leisure Park.

Unlike in the recent Marho Classic where he found all the room to carry the march, Don Paolo was pressed early on by Cat's Gold and Thywillbedone turned out to be the biggest recipient of the speed battle.

Thywillbedone, the Ongpin Cup titlist who marked his return to active competition by snaring the Marho Premium race only a week back, finished off the pacesetters as they neared the far turn and steadily drew away to prevail by six lengths in the one-mile (1,600-meter) race.

"*Bilin sa akin ng* trainer, *isunod agad kay* Don Paolo (The trainer instructed me to go after Don Paolo right away)," said Aguila, referring to the orders given to him at the saddling paddock by the colt's conditioner, former jockey Alfredo Abobo. "*Kundisyon ang kabayo ko kaya nakauna uli* (My mount is in top shape so he made it again)."

Red Star Rising, the 2003 Presidential Gold Cup champion set to be retired after the 2005 racing season, rallied from sixth and last to settle for second spot under Val Dilema, while Chariot of Fire and Pine Needles came in third and fourth, respectively.

Burnt out by their scorching clash at the front end, Don Paolo, beaten by a mere nose by Cover Girl in the Marho Classic, and Cat's Gold, the Sampaguita Stakes and PSA Cup winner, arrived fifth and sixth, respectively.

Thywillbedone, a bay son of Yonder out of Straight Effort, covered the distance in a respectacle 1:40.5 (24.5-24.5-24.5-27). He banked P300,000 for the Jarcom Stable.

SPORTSWATCH

Three more champs join Roligon battles

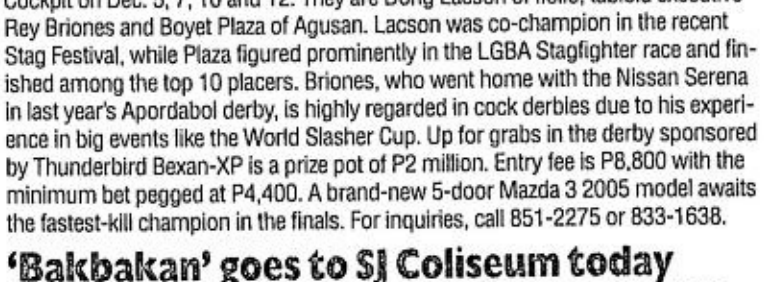
THREE MORE DERBY CHAMPIONS HAVE CONFIRMED THEIR PARTICIPATION in the upcoming Incredibol Na, Apordabol Pa 5-Cock Derby of Roligon Mega Cockpit on Dec. 5, 7, 10 and 12. They are Dong Lacson of Iloilo, tabloid executive Rey Briones and Boyet Plaza of Agusan. Lacson was co-champion in the recent Stag Festival, while Plaza figured prominently in the LGBA Stagfighter race and finished among the top 10 placers. Briones, who went home with the Nissan Serena in last year's Apordabol derby, is highly regarded in cock derbies due to his experience in big events like the World Slasher Cup. Up for grabs in the derby sponsored by Thunderbird Bexan-XP is a prize pot of P2 million. Entry fee is P8,800 with the minimum bet pegged at P4,400. A brand-new 5-door Mazda 3 2005 model awaits the fastest-kill champion in the finals. For inquiries, call 851-2275 or 833-1638.

'Bakbakan' goes to SJ Coliseum today

ACTION IN THE BLOCKBUSTER 2005 BAKBAKAN 9-STAG DERBY SHIFTS TO the San Juan Coliseum today, with about 100 fights on tap. The first fight of the derby sponsored primarily by Gran Matador and B-Meg is set at 12 noon. Only 12 out of 856 gamecock breeders entered in the derby have remained undefeated with six wins each. Mayor Cito Alberto of Catanduanes and Boy Montano (Red Mite III) and Cano Daniel (Alcatraz) were the latest six pointers from Thursday's semifinal round. This year's Bakbakan is also sponsored by Robichem Supremo Gamefowl Feeds, Thunderbird Platinum, Purina Bio 800, VNJ Distributor of Belamyl, Oxyrid by Excellence, Washout Shampoo, AVE Science, Strike Power Feeds by Asvet and Sogo/Eurotel Hotels. For inquiries, call 911-3101 or 911-2928.

Oroquieta 5-cock Invt'l stakes P1 million

A CASH POT OF P1 MILLION IS AT STAKE IN A 5-COCK INVITATIONAL WHICH kicks off on Nov. 30 at the Rhovics Cockpit and Restaurant in Barangay Momod, Oroquieta City. The three-day derby, fully backed by Thunderbird Platinum and Thunderbird Baby Stag Booster, is promoted by respected derby promoter Rudy Ala and gathers the finest cockers in Oroquieta and Misamis Occidental. Entry fee is P10,000. Two separate 2-cock eliminations scheduled Nov. 30 and Dec. 1 precede the 3-cock finals on Dec. 2.



PASA GODFATHER: Officials of the Philippine Amateur Swimming Association, led by head coach Pinky Brosas and secretary general Akiko Thomson, pay a courtesy call on top executives of the sport's "godfather," Bank of Commerce. Bancom president Raul de Mesa and Art Manuel, head of the bank's executive staff support group, receive the Pasa delegation, including the members of the diving team.

May free load ka na,
may house and lot pa!
Camella
Homes & Communities
SMART
Pamilyang Pinoy
LOAD
REWARDS
Buong pusong handog ng SMART sa pamilyang OFW
Ngayong Pasko sa SMART Pamilyang Pinoy Load Rewards, may free load ka na, pwede ka pang manalo ng house and lot. Mag-register sa SMART Pamilyang Pinoy para may load na babalik sa iyo tuwing tumatawag, nagte-text o nagpapadala ng MMS abroad*. What's more, may chance kang manalo ng house and lot. The more IDD calls, International Text and International MMS, mas maraming free load na babalik sa iyo and the bigger your chances of winning a house and lot! Kaya maski magkalayo ang pamilyang pinoy this Christmas, rewarding pa rin ang pagsasama. Mag-register na at maging bahagi ng SMART Pamilyang Pinoy!
Accumulated minutes / International Text / International MMS per monthly cycle
Load Rewards (P) (P)
Minimum of 15
P15.00
16 - 99
P1.00 per minute / text / MMS
(Ex. Total of 99 minutes / text / MMS = P99.00 load rewards)
100 and up
P2.00 per minute / text / MMS
(Ex. Total of 150 minutes / text / MMS = P300.00 load rewards)
Available in:
Buddy
TalkNText
Prepaid
PARA SA FREE REGISTRATION SA SMART PAMILYANG PINOY:
REG Abel Achas/ # 22 Herrera St. Makati City
1. I-type ang REG Name/Address
433
2. I-send sa 433.
U R Rgsterd to Pamilyang Pinoy!
3. Agad ma-ve-verify ang iyong pagsali.
TO MAKE AN IDD CALL:
Dial + Country Code • Area Code • Party's Number.
TO SEND AN INTERNATIONAL TEXT / MMS:
TEXT + Country Code • Area Code • Party's Number.
Questions/ Comments/ Concerns? Call the SMART Hotline at 888-1111
Promo Period: November 27, 2005 to January 19, 2006
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4162 Series of 2005.
SMART
Simply Amazing!

A2-1

SM SUPERMALLS
THE OFFICIAL MALL OF THE
23rd SEA GAMES
Philippines 2005
November 27 - December 5

23rd SEA GAMES Begins

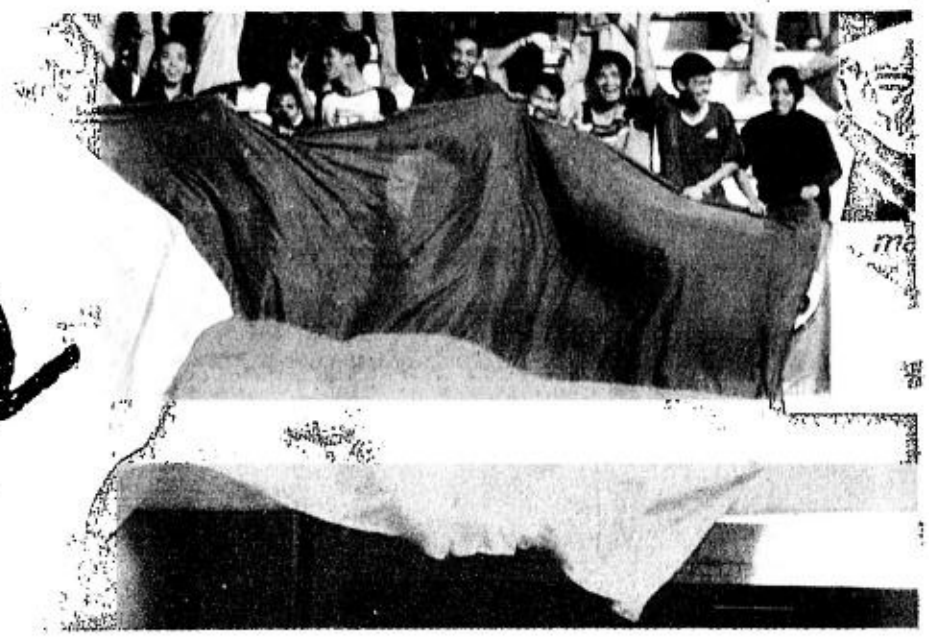


PHOTO BY REM ZAMORA

Be thrilled, feel secure

By Luige A. del Puerto

GO OUT AND WATCH THE GAMES, THE POLICE URGED Filipinos less than a week after the grand opening of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games in Manila.

The Metro Manila Police will be placed on full alert starting at 6 a.m. today for the Games, officials said. The rest of the regions where some of the games had already started were already heightened."

"Watch the games, we assure you that the PNP (Philippine National Police) has been doing its best to secure them," Task Force Sea Games chief Deputy Director General Avelino Razon said.

"Let us help show the rest of the world that our country is peaceful and safe for games and tourism," Razon said.

Razon reiterated that so far, the Task Force has not received any threat specific to the holding of the international games. The intelligence chief of the Metro Manla Police confirmed it.

The threat coming from Abu Sayyaf and the JI (Jemaah Islamiya) is there, but nothing particular or specific directed at the Sea Games," said Sr. Supt. Felipe Rojas Jr.

Razon said Ms Arroyo inspected the Quirino Grandstand in Manila this week. Ms Arroyo will be the guest speaker when the Games officially kick off on Sunday.

"She's satisfied with our briefing. It's all systems go," Razon said.

Some 15,000 policemen will be fielded in five regions for the Sea Games, which starts formally today and lasts until Dec. 5.

SEA Games *stamps issued*

THE PHILIPPINE POSTAL CORP (PhilPost) has issued a commemorative stamp in celebration of the country's hosting of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games, postmaster general Dario C. Rama announced recently.

Stamps, souvenir sheet and official First Day Covers will be available at the Door 203, Philatelic Service, Post Office Building, PhilPost and all the PhilPost regional offices. On the duration of the Sea Games, personalized stamps will also be available at the Rizal Football Stadium in Manila, according to Lourdes F. Cubelo, Philatelic Service acting director.

The Sea Games is the largest and most significant multi-sport event in the region and is held every two years to enable athletes to meet in friendly competition as well as to foster goodwill, friendship, and solidarity, in alignment with the aims and aspirations of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), information officer Tirso N. Paglicawan said.

Statistically, the 23rd Sea Games constitutes the biggest sporting event in the region, next to the Asian Games. The Philippines hosts the most anticipated sporting event in Southeast Asia for the third time. The Games is also considered as the most significant biannual multi-sport event and is seen as an important collaborative step toward its closest neighbors. This year's Games consist a number of entertaining regional multi-sport events which will feature 41 sports, 395 events, 7,000 expected athletes and officials from 11 participating countries. The Games are also considered as a valuable opportunity for the athletes to gain competitions experience in preparation for the forthcoming Olympic Games. The Sea Games were purposely created to strengthen friendship, solidarity, and understanding among neighboring countries in the region.

TOBY'S SPORTS
Live Life, Play Sports.

Ree Bok Polar RSL Prince Adidas Eusebio New Balance Dunlop Accel Eastpak AN D1 Titleist
Spalding Puma Mizuno Molten K-Swiss Mikas A Vans Wilson Skechers LaCrosse Pinnacle Nike Yonex
Camelbok The North Face Fox40 Kix Teva Chicago Head Coleman Equipe Gosen Penn Rawlings Harrows
Rollerblade Tri Bu Champion TKO Gamma Slazen Ger Fila Converse Carlton Speedo Talbot Tobys

Get the widest selection of the best sports brands only at Toby's Sports.
Visit our newly opened stores:

SM ILOILO
December 2005

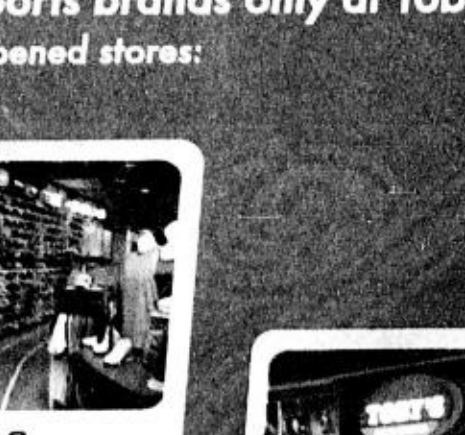
SM MOLINO, CAVITE
November 2005

SM VALENZUELA, BULACAN
November 2005

SM SOUTHMALL
Now re-opened/ November 2005

Coming soon:
The bigger and better Toby's ARENA @ Glorietta 2 & Mall of Asia

GLORIETTA 2
December 2005



SM MALL OF ASIA
March 2006

www.tobys.com

PHOTO BY RYAN LIM

SEA Games History

THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN GAMES IS the largest and most significant multi-sport event in the region and is held every two years to enable athletes to meet in friendly competition as well as to foster goodwill, friendship and solidarity, in alignment with the aims and aspirations of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean).

The SEA Games originated from the SEAP (South East Asian Peninsular) Games which were inaugurated in Thailand in 1959, with just six participating countries - Burma (Myanmar), Laos, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. The SEAP was conceptualized by Laung Sukhumnaipradit, the then vice president of the Thailand Olympic Committee. He firmly believed that a regional sports event, similar to the Asian Games or the Olympic Games, will help promote cooperation, understanding and relations among countries in the region. His efforts were rewarded after two years of lobbying.

The SEAP Games continued to be held biennially until the Philippines and Indonesia joined the Games which was then renamed SEA Games at its 9th meet in Malaysia in 1977, with the admission of Brunei Darussalam as well. The name has since been officially adopted and the Games has now become the most important sports event of the region. Memberships of SEA Games already increased to 11 with Cambodia being the last member.

Its mission is to strengthen political, economic, and social ties with the countries of the region. While it hopes to develop tourism and increase revenue earnings and to prepare itself to organize and host bigger events like The Asian Games and The Olympic Games.

www.2005seagames.com.ph

Its mission is to strengthen political, economic, and social ties with the countries of the region. While it hopes to develop tourism and increase revenue earnings and to prepare itself to organize and host bigger events like The Asian Games and The Olympic Games

SEA Games Sports Events/Venues

METRO MANILA

Rizal Memorial Sports Complex
Athletics Baseball Table Tennis-Lawn TennisGymnastics

Manila Arnis
(Emilio Aguinaldo College) Wushu (Emilio Aguinaldo College)Wrestling (San Andres Gym)

Marikina City
Women's Football (Marikina Sports Complex)

Antipolo City
Men's Basketball

Quezon City
Cycling Track Events (Amoranto Velodrome) Traditional Boat Race (La Mesa Dam Water Park)Rowing (La Mesa Dam Water Park) Women's Basketball (Ateneo Blue Eagle Gym)

Laguna
Aquatics (Trace College Los Baños)Men's Golf (The Country Club Canlubang Laguna)

Makati City
Billiard / Snooker (Makati Coliseum) Squash (Makati Sports Club)Women's Golf (Manila Golf Club)

Muntinlupa City
Equestrian (Alabang Country Club) Shooting - Trap and Skeet (PNSA Clay Target Range)

Pasay City
Body Building (GSIS Theater)Muay - (GSIS)

Pasig City
Badminton (Philsports Arena)Fencing (Pasig Sports Center)Softball (Rosario Sports Complex) Taekwondo (Cuneta Astrodome)

Parañaque City
Bowling (Pearl Bowling Center)

Taguig City
Shooting - Air Pistol, Rifle, Practical (PSC-PNSA Shooting Range BNS Fort Bonifacio)

ANGELES CITY, PAMPANGA

Lawn Bowls (Hidden Vale Sports Club Angeles City) Petanque (Hidden Vale Sports Club Angeles City)

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT ZONE

ArcheryCanoe / KayakSailings-Triathlon

CEBU

Dancesport (Waterfront Hotel)Pencak Silat (Cebu Coliseum)Karatedo (Mandaue Coliseum) Judo (Mandaue Coliseum) Sepak Takraw (University of San Carlos)Cycling - Mountain Bike (Danao City)

BACOLOD

Boxing (La Salle Gym) Weightlifting (Bacolod Convention Center)Beach Volleyball (University of St. La Salle Grounds)Indoor Volleyball (Negros Occidental Activity Center)Men's Football (Paglaum & Panaad Sports Fields)

TAGAYTAY CITY

Chess (Tagaytay City Convention Center)Cycling - Road (Tagaytay City)

Milo promotes Filipino solidarity at 23rd SEA Games

SPORTS AS A UNIFYING force is once again showcased as various sectors work together for the staging of the 23rd South East Asian (SEA) Games from November 27 - December 5, 2005.

One of the staunchest supporters of the much-anticipated event is Milo, the official energy drink of the 23rd SEA Games. Recently, Milo Sports Executive Pat Goc-ong presented Milo's efforts in promoting and raising awareness on the South East Asian (SEA) Games to Philippine SEA Games Organizing Committee (Philsoc) Chairman Jose S. Cojuangco, Jr.

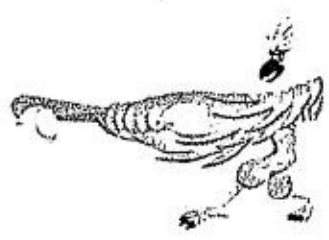
Goc-ong proudly pointed out that Milo is helping raise public awareness and involvement about the SEA Games through various activities and promotional materials. One of these is through the signature campaign, a key feature in the recently concluded National Milo Marathon that was held in thirteen cities nationwide. Throughout the event, supporters and participants affixed their signatures and wrote their messages of support to all the Filipino athletes competing in the SEA Games.

In the last several weeks, the public has seen a series of advertising materials in the country's select publications and TV shows. These ads feature exceptional Milo athletes like champion marathoner Eduardo Buenavista, taekwondo ace Japoy Lizardo and rhythmic gymnastics champ Danica Calapatan. Through these advertorials, Milo hopes to inspire the public to come out and support the Filipino athletes.

For greater reach and impact, Milo has also changed its merchandising materials, shelf talkers, posters, wobblers and streamers to reflect the SEA Games spirit. A highlight of all these is the availability of the limited-edition SEA Games Milo commemorative tin can, which features a photo of Philippine rhythmic gymnastics champion Danica Calapatan and a trivia on the SEA Games.

Acknowledging Milo's efforts, Cojuangco remarked, "Through the years, Milo continues to establish itself at the forefront of Philippine sports development. This is a reminder of the affinity and true partnership between the 23rd SEA Games and Milo, a partnership that we truly appreciate and cherish. We at the POC and the Philsoc truly recognize Nestlé and Milo to be a member of the family of Filipino athletes and those of the SEA Games."

High hopes for RP softball teams



THE COUNTRY'S MEN'S and women's softball teams are expected to take home golds in the forthcoming Southeast Asian Games, according to Amateur Softball Association of the Philippines (Asaphil) president Rep. Harry Angping. Both teams are composed of veterans who saw action in several international tournaments and are reinforced by new equally outstanding players.

The RP Blu Boys placed runner-up to Japan in the 7th Asian Men's Softball Championship, which was hosted by Asaphil in 2003. It also made a commendable showing in the 2004 World Men's Softball Championship held in Christchurch, New Zealand.

On their part, the Blu Girls competed in the 2002 Busan Asian Games, the 8th Asian Women's Softball Championship, which was likewise hosted by Asaphil, and the 2003 World Junior Women's Softball Championship.

Heading the coaching staff for the Blu Boys and Girls are coaches Gregorio Dela Cerna and Rolly Malaguit, respectively, with Cebuana Lhuillier executive vice president and general manager Jean Henri Lhuillier as team manager and lawyer Luis Climaco as assistant team manager.

The teams have been practicing continuously in the newly refurbished diamond field in Rosario, Pasig City hosted by Mayor Vicente Eusebio.

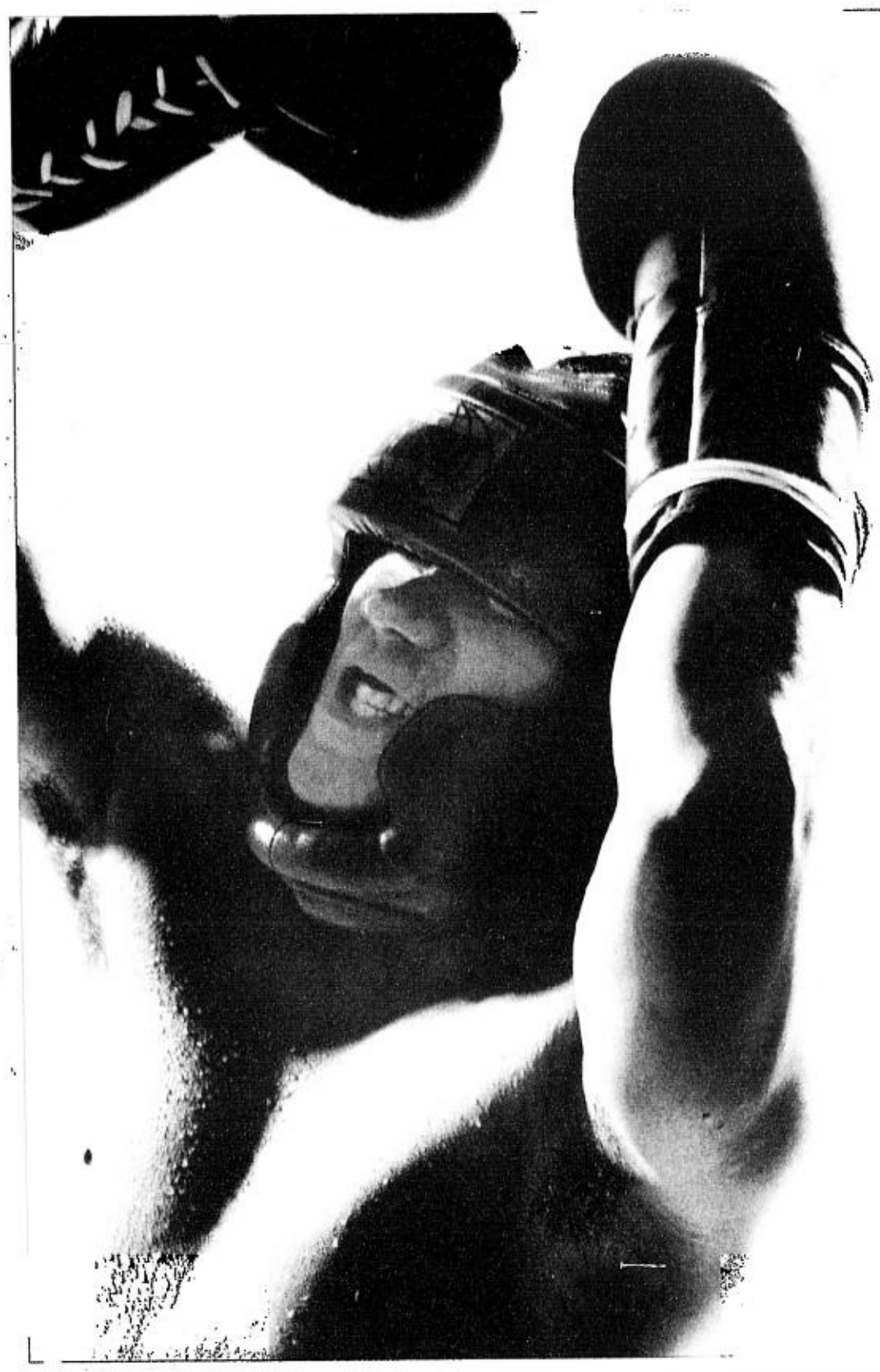
Angping said he expects a massive turnout of spectators during the SEAG because the province of Rizal, where Pasig is located, is "softball country". In fact, Asaphil was headed for a long time by Rizal Governor Isidro Rodriguez, the "Godfather" of softball in the Philippines. It was during his administration, Asaphil said, that softball was a premier sport in the country and when our national team enjoyed international respect and recognition as one of the best in the world.

The RP Blu Boys are composed of players Isidro Abello, Florante Acuna, Dario Bacarisas, Manuel Bacarisas Jr, Manolito Binarao, Orlando Binarao, Romeo Bumagat, Masyong Cabrera, Fidel Moncera, Mark Rae Ramirez, Apolonio Rosales, Rogelio Rojas, Anthony Santos, Rizel Santos, Marciano Sta. Maria Jr, Melvin Villegas and Sonnyboy Acuna. The team is coached by Gregorio Dela Cerna, with Isaac Bacarisas, Nilo Barajan and Joel Binarao as assistant coaches.

The RP Blu Girls, on the other hand, are composed of players Heidilyn Arca, Belen Asok, Nimpa Baral, Haydee Bongas, Ellaine Caladiao, Joy Lanting, Nelia Lara, Mary Joy Lasquite, Claire Laurilla, Kimster Liwas, Joan Locsin, Syrel Ramos, Gina Salvador, Ma. Corazon Soberre, Emily Tayag, Esmeralda Tayag and Janet Vallite. The team's head coach is Rolly Malaguit, with Roberto Ituralde, Noel Bumagat, Hernando Posadas and Anastacio Francisco as assistant coaches.

THE RP BLU Boys in action during practice in preparation for the grueling games.

'Let us help show the rest of the world that our country is peaceful and safe for games and tourism'



ISN'T IT COMFORTING TO KNOW
THAT YOU'RE NOT ALONE
IN YOUR QUEST FOR EXCELLENCE?

THE OFFICIAL INSURER OF THE 2005 SEA GAMES.

PIONEER
Life and Non-Life
+63 2 812 7777
www.pioneer.com.ph

Winston
Spirit of the U.S.A.

AMERICAN FLAVOR
Winston
FILTERS
PREMIUM QUALITY BLEND

Winston
Hard pack.
New look. New spirit.

Enjoy True Quality

Government Warning:
Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health.

RP athletes say they're ready

Our athletes attest that the PSC provides them with all the nutrition they need to be at their best shape all the time

ASKED IF THEY THINK THEY ARE ready to compete in the 23rd South East Asian Games, Filipino athletes proudly declare that they are. Hearing such confidence from the athletes themselves is an assurance to us that the Philippine delegation will do their best and, hopefully, deliver in the SEA Games.

Efforts by the Philippine Sports Commission and the Philippine SEA Games Organizing Committee (Philsoc) are paying off. This time, the PSC together with Philsoc are making sure that the athletes' needs are well attended to. In terms of training, athletes are happy that they are receiving enough. For most sports, training is from Monday to Saturday, every morning and afternoon. For non-athletes like most of us, such rigorous training would ultimately lead to body pain.

Athletes say, in all honesty, that love of country is what drives them to stand tiredness, body pain, exhaustion and even stress.

Our athletes attest that the PSC provides them with all the nutrition they need to be at their best shape all the time. SEA Games sponsors help as well, by supplying products for the athletes' consumption. Revicon, for instance, provides Revicon Forte tablets that athletes take before practice to improve their physical condition. Enriched with iron, B-Complex and amino acids, each tablet enlivens athletes' blood circulation and helps release trapped energies in their bodies.

"We are really training hard for the competition. Even when the weather is really bad, tuloy pa rin kami. We find ways to continue our training, even rain is not an issue," recounts Joy Lanting and team captain Nimpa Baral of the women's softball team, which bagged the championship in the pre-SEA Games match in Malaysia in August.

If you ask each athlete if their team has a chance of winning, you'll get the same answer, "Oo naman!" Some are even super confident that they will bag the gold. Although the SEA Games has just formally opened, by just having proud, nationalistic athletes, win or lose we are already winners, for we are now certain that however they fare against their opponents, they will have done their best for the country's glory.

Our athletes, though, are a bit worried that since the country is hosting the competition, too much is expected from them. But just the same, they do not let this get in their way. Instead, they take it as a challenge. Such attitude is what they need to stay in focus and be mentally and emotionally fit for the competitions.

Moral support also does a lot. Let us give them a boost by taking the time to watch them live and let them hear our cheers. Check out the game schedules and be sure to bring your old pomponms and boisterous self to the games. Make sure to take a tablet of Revicon Forte for that extra boost of energy to cheer our athletes on and be one with them.

Tennis belles ready for action

JUST AS THE PUBLIC CAN expect a lot of good tennis, another reason to drop by the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center is to catch these lovely ladies of our women's tennis team who will banner the Southeast Asian Games.

Fil-Ams Denise Dy and Riza Zalameda, Fil-German Anja Vanessa Peter and top homegrown talent Czarina Mae Arevalo, are tennis' winsome four who will see action at the 23rd staging of the SEA Games.

The RP team is also composed of Fil-Am players Cecil Mamiit and Fredric Taino from the United States. Mamiit and Taino, together with Davis Cuppers Johnny Arcilla and PJ Tierro will banner the men's tennis team.

The girls have made use of their participation in the just concluded Holcim ITF Women's Circuit to show what they're capable of on the court.

Leading the Philippine Tennis Team is Philippine Tennis Association (Philta) president Manuel Misa and team manager Jean Henri Lhuillier of Cebuana Lhuillier with Johnny Jose heading the coaching staff for the women's team.

SHOWN, from left, are Riza Angela Zalameda, Czarina Mae Arevalo, Denise Dy and Anja Vanessa Peter.

MUAY FIGHTERS READY TO MIX IT UP

Filipino muay fighters are raring for action in the Southeast Asian Games after the training sponsorship they received from San Miguel Corp and San Mig Strong Ice. The Philippines' muay top bets include world champions Brent Velasco and Roland Claro, Cristino Custodio, Davis Panisigan and Armando Daligdig, as well as lady fighters Lianne Flameno and Victoria Agbayani. A likely figure at ringside with Muay association president Robert Valdez and coaches Rodrigo Asiong and Edzel Ngina is 'The Dragon' Samboy

Lim, SMC project director for muay. Matches, from preliminaries to finals, are scheduled at the GSIS Gym in Pasay City from Nov. 30 to Dec. 4.

RP-GINEBRA SAN MIGUEL BOXERS LOOKING SHARP

With their fists sharpened up by close to 8 months of training with the support of San Miguel Corp and Ginebra San Miguel, Team Philippines in boxing plunge on their hunt for Southeast Asian Games gold medals from Nov. 28 to Dec. 3 at the University of St. La Salle Coliseum in Bacolod City. Providing added spark to the RP pugs is Allan Caidic (center), SMC SEAG project director for boxing.

Special treat for Pinoy gold medalists

"THE PHILIPPINE TOURISM Authority (PTA), in recognition of the hard work, diligence and perseverance of the Filipino athletes in the coming Sea Games, offers a three-day, two-night vacation for all our gold medalists and two members of their family," announced PTA general manager Robert Dean S. Barbers.

The PTA recently announced that it has prepared very encouraging incentives for all our participating athletes this coming Sea Games. The full board 3-day, 2-night vacation is available for all Filipino gold medal winners. The gold medalists may choose to bring along two family members to bask in the sun, sea, and surf at the Presidential Rest House in the San Fabian PTA Beach Resort or enjoy a cool mountain respite on the Eighth Wonder of the World - the Banaue Rice Terraces - and stay at the Banaue Hotel and Youth Hostel.

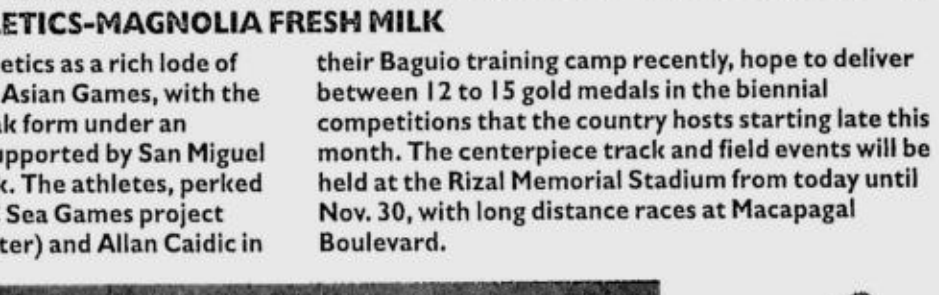
"As the host of the 2005 Sea Games and in the spirit of camaraderie and goodwill, we would like to give our South East Asian neighbors a chance to experience the best in the Philippines. I am happy to announce that all the athletes and participants in the coming Games can avail themselves of big discounts in all our facilities all over the country," said Barbers.

The PTA is offering big discounts on room rates in their various facilities all over the country. The rates are for standard rooms only except in the MacArthur Park and Beach Resort (deluxe rooms) in Palo, Leyte, and the Gardens for Malasag (Lantaw rooms) in Cagayan de Oro.

This special treat will provide all the athletes, officials, and all other participants in the 2005 Sea Games an opportune breather after the charged competition of the Games as they experience the warmth and true beauty of the Philippines.

"Our hosting the Sea Games is an opportune time to showcase the many wonderful destinations all over the country. Let us join President Arroyo's call to rally support for Philippine tourism and show the world how warm, charming, and beautiful the Philippines truly is," Barbers said.

The special discounted rates will only be available from Nov. 24 to Dec. 15. For bookings, reservations and more information, contact PTA Reservations Office at 524-8977, 524-2502, 524-2495, PTA trunk line 524-7141 local 427. Or visit the website: www.philtourism.gov.ph or send an email to: sales@philtourism.gov.ph.



GOLD MINE IN RP ATHLETICS-MAGNOLIA FRESH MILK

The Philippines banks on athletics as a rich lode of gold medals in the Southeast Asian Games, with the Filipino bets seen at their peak form under an intensive training program supported by San Miguel Corp and Magnolia Fresh Milk. The athletes, perked up further with a visit of SMC Sea Games project directors Chito Loyzaga (center) and Allan Caidic in their Baguio training camp recently, hope to deliver between 12 to 15 gold medals in the biennial competitions that the country hosts starting late this month. The centerpiece track and field events will be held at the Rizal Memorial Stadium from today until Nov. 30, with long distance races at Macapagal Boulevard.

RP IX SEAG TITLE FAVORITE

Baseball makes its debut in the Southeast Asian Games with the Philippines installed as the title favorite, especially with the training sponsorship that the RP baseball team received from San Miguel Corp and Purefoods Tender Juicy Hotdog, which enabled the squad to compete in the Asian championship. The RP IX beat regional rival Thailand in that meet to boost the country's gold medal chances in the event. Allan Caidic, one of the SEAG ambassadors and SMC project director for baseball, is expected to lead in cheering for the RP baseball team when the games reel off Nov. 28 at the Rizal Memorial Baseball Stadium.

Facts every Pinoy should know about the Games

MANILA--As the 23rd Southeast Asian Games open here Sunday, here are some key facts about the event:

o Teams from 11 countries are competing. They are: Brunei, Cambodia, Timor, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

o 441 gold medals are up for grabs in 41 events

o The Games run from Nov. 27 to Dec. 5.

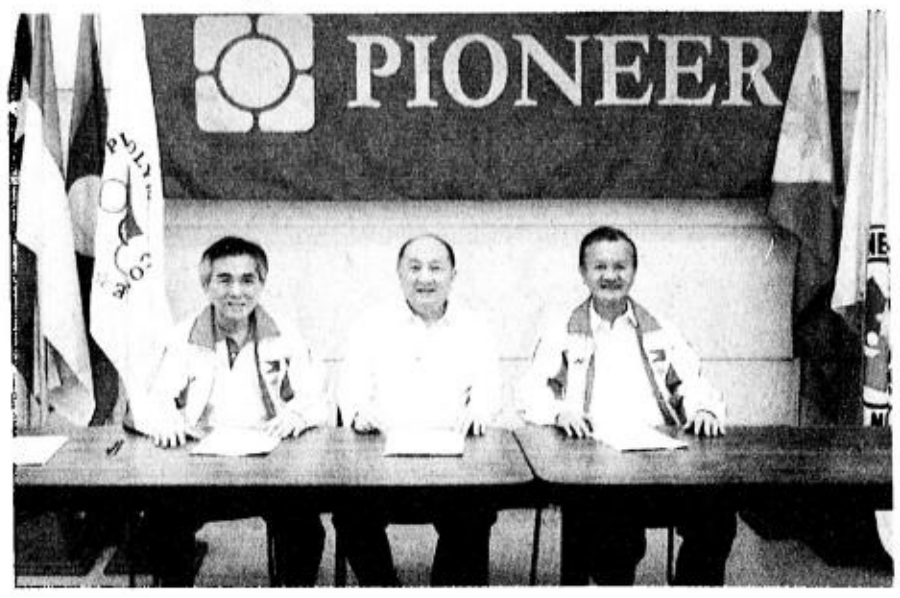
o An estimated 5,336 athletes will compete.

o The Southeast Asian Games were first held in Thailand in 1959, they were known as the Southeast Asian Peninsula Games until 1975.

o The Games are held every two years, with the last event hosted by Vietnam, Thailand is host in 2007 AFP

PIONEER OFFICIAL INSURER OF THE 23RD SEA GAMES

Pioneer was appointed the official insurer of the 23rd SEA Games covering over 10,000 athletes and officials who will be participating at the games. The appointment marks a repeat of sorts with Pioneer also being appointed the official insurer of the 16th SEA Games held in Manila in 1991. The sponsorship agreement was signed by (from left) PHILSOC Secretary General Steve Hontiveros, Pioneer Insurance Chairman, Ernesto Chan, and PHILSOC CEO Jose Cojuancgo, Jr. POC Treasurer Julian Camacho (far right) also witnessed the signing.



PIONEER OFFICIAL INSURER OF THE 23RD SEA GAMES

Pioneer was appointed the official insurer of the 23rd SEA Games covering over 10,000 athletes and officials who will be participating at the games. The appointment marks a repeat of sorts with Pioneer also being appointed the official insurer of the 16th SEA Games held in Manila in 1991. The sponsorship agreement was signed by (seated from left) PHILSOC Secretary General Steve Hontiveros, Pioneer Insurance Chairman, Ernesto Chan and PHILSOC CEO Jose Cojuancgo, Jr.

FILIPINO ATHLETES SAY THEY ARE READY FOR THE 23rd SEA GAMES

Asked if they think they are ready to compete in the 23rd SEA Games, Filipino athletes proudly state that they are. Hearing such confidence from the athletes themselves is an assurance to us that the Philippine delegation will do their best, and hopefully, deliver in the SEA Games.

Efforts by the Philippine Sports Commission and the Philippine SEA Games Organizing Committee (PHILSOC) are paying off. This time, the PSC together with PHILSOC, are making sure that the athletes' needs are well attended to. In terms of training, athletes are happy that they are receiving enough. For most sports, training is from Monday to Saturday, every morning and afternoon. For non-athletes like most of us, such rigorous training will ultimately lead to body pain. Athletes say, in all honesty, that love of country is what drives them to stand tiredness, body pain, exhaustion and even stress.

Out athletes attest that the PSC provides them with all the nutrition they need to be at their best shape all the time. SEA Games sponsors help as well by supplying products for the athletes' consumption. Revicon, for instance, provides Revicon Forte tablets that athletes take before practice to improve their physical condition. Enriched with iron, B-Complex and amino acids, each tablet enlivens athletes' blood circulation and helps release trapped energies in their bodies.

"We are really training hard for the competition. Even when the weather is really bad, tuloy pa rin kami. We find ways to continue our training, even rain is not an excuse," recount Joy Lanting and team captain Nimpa Baral of the Softball team (Women), which bagged the championship in the pre-SEA Games match in Malaysia last August.

If you ask each athlete if their team has a chance of winning, you'll get the same answer, "Oo naman!" Some are even super confident that they will bag the gold. Although the SEA Games hasn't formally begun, by just having proud nationalistic athletes, win or lose we are already winners, for we are now certain that however they fare against their opponents, they will have done their best for the country's glory.

Our athletes, though, are a bit worried that since the country is hosting the competition, too much is expected from them. But just the same, they do not let this get in their way. Instead they take it as a challenge. Such attitude is what they need to stay in focus and be mentally and emotionally fit for the competitions.

Moral support also does a lot. Let us give them a boost by taking the time to watch them live and let them hear our cheers. Check out the game schedules and be sure to bring your old pompoms and boisterous self to the games. Make sure to take a tablet of Revicon Forte for that extra boost of energy to cheer our athletes on and be one with them para Buhay ang Dugo, Buhay ang Lakas!

MABUHAY ang DUGO.
MABUHAY ang LAKAS.

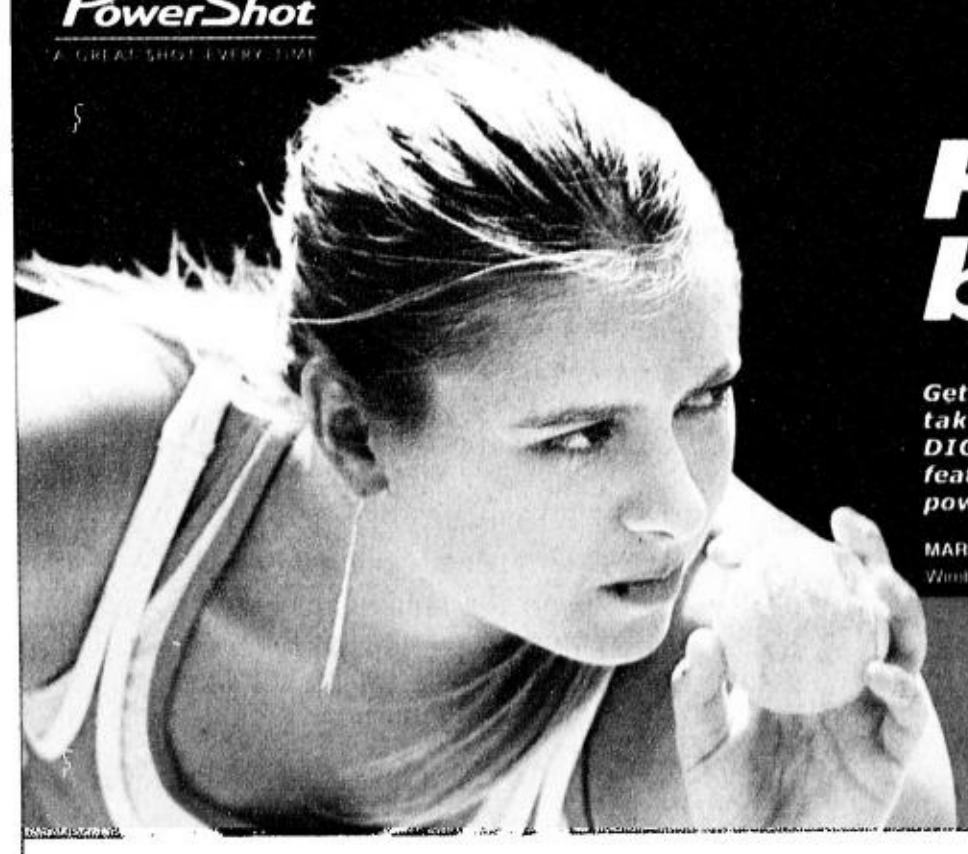
23rd SEA GAMES Philippines 2005

Ikinararangal namin ang pagbigay ng lakas sa lahat ng manlalaro sa 23rd SEA GAMES

multivitamins minerals + amino acids
revicon

THE OFFICIAL VITAMIN OF THE 23rd SEA GAMES

BUHAY ang DUGO. BUHAY ang LAKAS.



PowerShot
A GREAT SHOT EVERY TIME

Canon
Delighting You Always

Power Deal by Powershot

Get the new PowerShot A410 and start taking power shots. Loaded with a DIGIC II processor plus incredible features, this digital camera can deliver powerful shots.

MARIA SHARAPOVA
Wimbledon Champion

FREE USB card reader and PowerShot radio!

POWERSHOT RADIO
USB CARD READER

Per DTI NCR Permit No. 6827, Series of 2005. Promo runs from November 13 to December 31, 2005

PowerShot A410
• 3.2 megapixel CCD • 3.2x optical zoom • 1.5" LCD

Blue
Champagne
Dark Gray
Metallic Gray

PictBridge
POWERED BY DiGiC II

Insist on an original warranty issued by Canon Marketing (Philippines), Inc.

Canon Marketing (Philippines), Inc. 2F Marvin Plaza, 2153 Don Chino Roces Avenue cor. V.A. Rufino St., Makati City
Tels.: 884-9000 • Fax. 810-9797 • info@canon.com.ph • www.canon.com.ph

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Special PROJECT
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2005

Tight race for medal glory between RP, Thailand

MANILA - HOST NATION THE PHILIPpines aims to top the medal table at the 23rd Southeast Asian Games beginning this weekend but with football the main focus the glory could go to Thailand.

The 10-day biennial showpiece officially opens Sunday in Manila, although events will be held in Bacolod, the central city of Cebu, and suburbs near the capital.

A total of 441 gold medals are up for grabs in 41 events, with the Philippine martial art arnis as well as ballroom dancing making their debuts.

Security is tight with a 17,000-strong police force on alert to ensure the safety of the thousands of athletes and officials taking part, amid the threat of possible attacks by militants.

Philippine Olympic Committee chair Robert Aventajado said his country was angling for gold medals in boxing, equestrian, taekwondo and other martial arts, as well as in athletics.

"We are targeting some 120 gold medals this year, and we are doing our best to land on top," Aventajado told AFP.

But football will be the main attraction after basketball was pulled from the event at the last minute due to a long-standing squabble among local officials, and defending champions Thailand are hot favorites.

Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam have sent football teams to the central city of Bacolod, where the game enjoys a huge local following.

"I believe Thailand is still the team to beat," Aventajado said, but added that the Philippines will give them a run for their money, while a strong Vietnam squad will also be up there.

The Philippine football team is considered the best the country has ever assembled, buoyed by six Filipino-foreigners including brothers Philip James and James Joseph Younghusband who live in Britain.

They are considered the great hope of reviving football in the Philippines, which is currently ranked a lowly 189th in the world next to tiny Bhutan.

Both have played in reserve team matches for English club Chelsea, and the Philippines is banking on this experience to give them an edge.

"We have a great team and I'm confident that everyone will deliver," 18-year-old striker Philip James told reporters in Bacolod.

Former Aston Villa and England striker Peter Withe, who used to manage Thailand and is now coaching Indonesia, also believes Thailand remains the team to beat.

"They're the strongest team," he said.

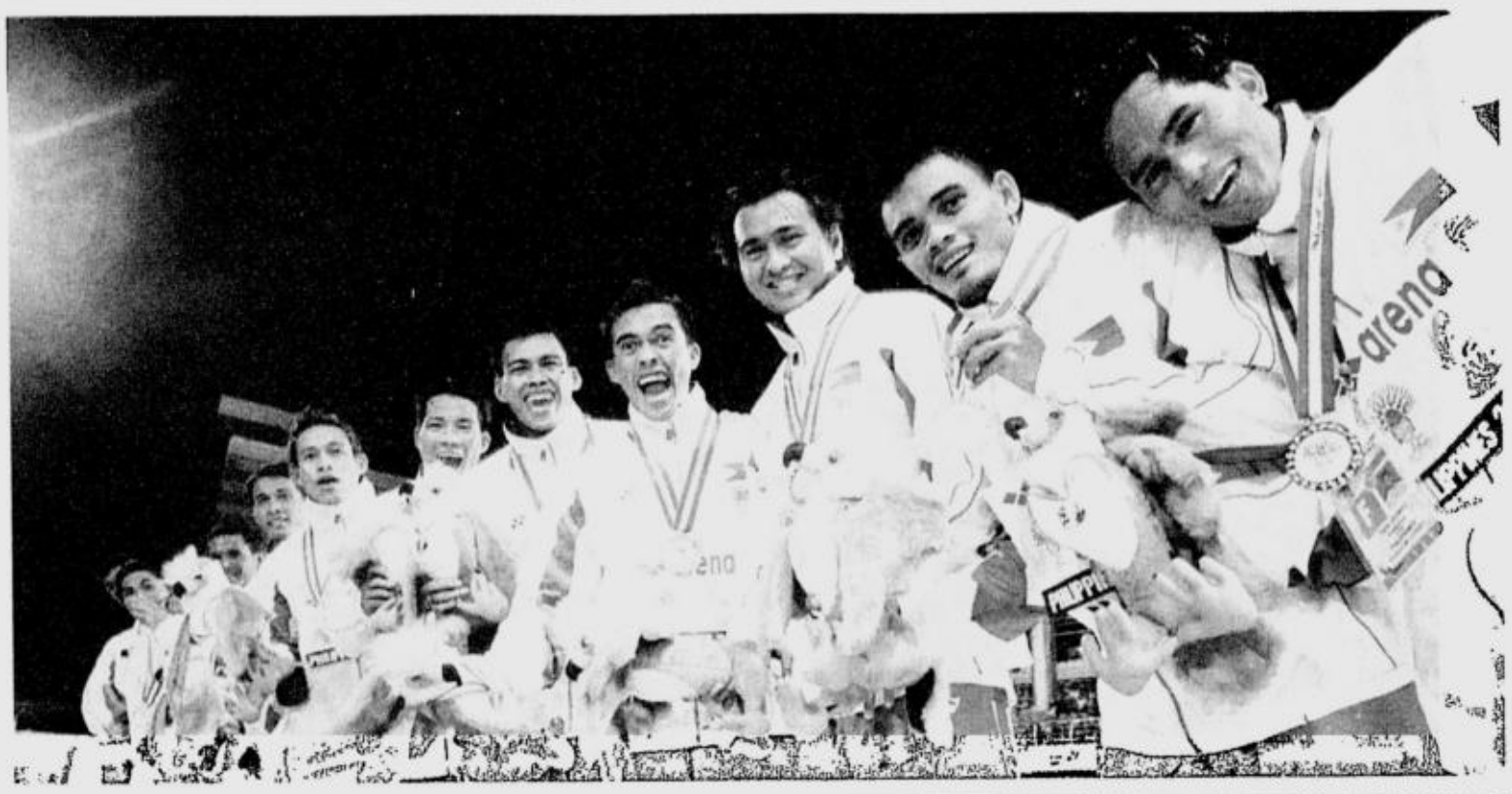
Nevertheless, Philippine Football Federation president Johnny Romualdez warned his rivals not to underestimate the home team, in front of a home crowd.

"Philippine football has gotten stronger because of them," Romualdez said, referring to the Younghusband brothers, adding that it was only a matter of time before the country starts making a mark on the football map.

Ironically, the Philippines virtually introduced football to Asia when in 1913 it organized the first regional match. It played China and won 2-1 in Manila, according to the Asean Football Federation.

But it has been in a sorry state for years and is returning to the Games after a six-year hiatus. *AFP*

'Philippine football has gotten stronger because of them,' Romualdez said, referring to the Younghusband brothers, adding that it was only a matter of time before the country starts making a mark on the football map



THE WATER polo team of host Philippines cheers following the medal presentation in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games at Los Baños, south of Manila Nov 25. The Philippines beat Malaysia 8-2 to bag the silver, with Singapore becoming the first country in the 9-member SEA Games to bag the gold. AP

PHILIPS
sense and simplicity

Let PROGRESS run its course.
The only thing that should be left behind is our DIFFERENCES.

OVERCOME THE STARTING BLOCK

At the 23rd South East Asian Games, our countrymen should set aside internal disputes and take up the cudgels for international competition. Against Indonesians, Malaysians, and Thai's, there are no *probinsiyanos* or Manileños, no Christians or Muslims, and no ruling party or political opposition. There are only Filipinos in the running.

PLANT FEET ON THE GROUND

In the pursuit of excellence, we as a nation should keep realistic goals as milestones. In order to reach our aspired destination, we must consider our people's strengths and weaknesses. We must know who we are and where we came from in order to go places.

MIND FALSE STARTS

We ought to be mindful of how we pace ourselves as a race. To get things right, we start with discipline and discernment and proceed towards decisiveness and determination. If we get off on the wrong foot, our next steps will be a series of stumbling blocks before an eventual downfall.

STAND SHOULDER-TO-SHOULDER

Like the warrior Olympians of old, our youthful delegates must keep in mind that might is increased tenfold when moving as a team. Armed with expert coaching and extensive support, our national representatives can contend with the best of the best in Asia. Despite their diminutive size, our Filipino athletes will find themselves standing tall amongst the other races if we can get our act together.

GO THE DISTANCE

However, it is not enough to merely hold our own against the champions of other countries. With all our skills and resources, Filipinos should be able to outpace and lead the Pacific Rim pack. To win hands down, all it takes is unity in sports and teamwork in the national arena.

Philips supports the participants of the 23rd SEA Games.

ENTERTAINMENT

Text us your f

Now showing all over the world: Pinoy digital films

'Maximo' accepted in Sundance, 'Ebolusyon' and 'Anak ng Tinapa' shown in Torino

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

ANG PAGDADALAGA NI Maximo Oliveros," Cinemalaya Special Jury Prize winner and Golden Zenith awardee at the Montreal World Film Festival, was accepted as entry in the World Cinema competition of the Sundance Film Festival.

The pioneering festival of independent movies founded by Hollywood actor and director Robert Redford 25 years ago is set in Salt Lake City, Utah, from Jan. 19 to 29.

"Maximo" is the first Filipino feature film to be included in the festival.

"Ramona Diaz's 'Imelda' won Best Cinematography last year, but it was a documentary," "Maximo" producer Raymond Lee told INQUIRER Entertainment.

According to the Sundance website, the World Cinema section—further divided into documentary and dramatic features—was inaugurated only last year.

While Sundance is "dedicated to the development of artists of independent vision [in the US]," the World Cinema category "offers a window into the thematic and aesthetic concerns of innovative artists around the globe ... as a way of supporting creative dialogue among divergent cultures."

Lee and director Auraeus Solito submitted "Maximo" to Sundance on their own. "Auraeus filled up the form online and I sent a VHS copy of the film via express courier," Lee recounted. "We just tried our luck."

At the Montreal World Film Festival, which ran from Aug. 26 to Sept. 5, Lee and Solito met New York-based critic Godfrey Cheshire, a juror in the First Films section which "Maximo" had topped.

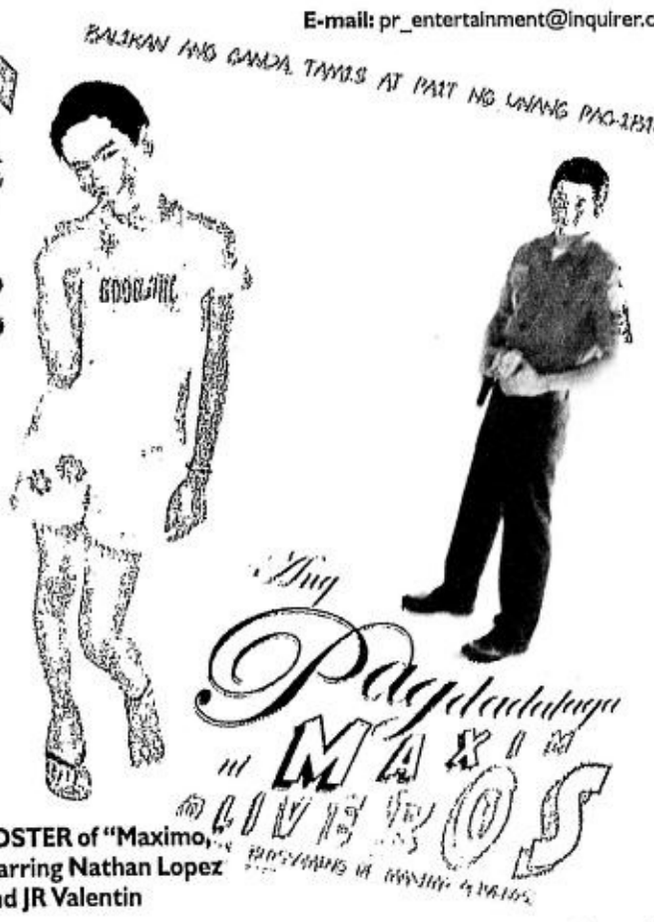
"He encouraged us to enter our film in Sundance," Lee related.

Cheshire, who wrote for the New York Times and Village Voice, is a staunch supporter of "Maximo" and has described it as "passionate, fascinating and extraordinary."

In the acceptance letter, Sundance organizers, led by festival director Geoffrey Gilmore, said: "We are delighted to present the US premiere of this excellent work."

After negotiations with mainstream studios fell through, "Maximo" will finally have its theatrical run in the Philippines on Nov. 30.

NOW SHOWING/ A3-2



POSTER of "Maximo," starring Nathan Lopez and JR Valentin

RYAN Eigenmann and Forsythe Cordero in "Anak ng Tinapa," a.k.a. "Something Fishy"

MARIFE Necesito and Elryan de Vera in Lav Diaz's "Ebolusyon"

DREAM bigger.
BELIEVE harder.
SURVIVE longer.
WHO WILL BE THE NEXT ULTIMATE STARSTRUCK SURVIVORS?
STARSTRUCK
The NATIONWIDE INVASION
The No. 1, Original and Unbeatable ARTISTA SEARCH on Philippine Television is back!
YEAR 3 na ito, mga Kapuso--at NATIONWIDE pa!
Kaya three times the fun, fame and fortune
ang makakamit ng magwawaging
Ultimate StarStruck Survivors!
This is the time to dream...
and to make those dreams come true!
Magsisimula na ngayong gabi
pagkatapos ng Mahiwagang Baul
at magpapatuloy gabi-gabi simula bukas,
Lunes hanggang Biyernes pagkatapos ng
ENCANTADIA sa GMA Telebabad!
SUNSILK Kotex Pads & Pantiliners Rejoice
GMA
Encantadia
ISANG ENCANTADIA 4 NA BRILYANTE
ISANG KAHON 12 NA MISTER DONUT
BUMILI LANG NG ISANG DOSENANG DONUT PARA MAKAKUHA NG LIBRENG SPECIAL EDITION ENCANTADIA HOK AT PILLOW!
Mister Donut
Promo runs from October 21 to December 2005 Per DTI-NCR Permit No 612 Series of 2005

Now showing all over the world: Pinoy digital films

From page A3-1

Significantly, its producers at ufo Pictures will self-distribute it, with a little help from Star Cinema. "Sarong Banggi," ufo's other Cinemalaya entry, will be released early next year.

Lav retro

Another Filipino digital film, Lav Diaz's "Ang Ebolusyon ng Isang Pamilyang Pilipino," was shown at the 23rd Torino Film Festival, held in Italy from Nov. 11-19, as part of a retrospective of his works, which include "Hesus Rebolusyonaryo," "Batang West Side" and the work-in-progress, "Heremias."

"Ebolusyon" was named Best Picture in the Urian Awards early this year, together with "Panaghoy sa Suba," a film by Cesar Montano. Both are indie films.

A Lino Brocka tribute was also prepared for Torino by Roger Garcia, program consultant for Asia. Six Brocka masterpieces—"Tinimbang Ka Ngunit Kulang," "Maynila, Sa mga Kuko ng Liwanag," "Insiang," "Ina, Kapatid, Anak," "Bona" and "Bayan Ko"—were shown, followed by a panel discussion with Pierre Rissient, the Frenchman credited for introducing Brocka to Cannes in 1978.

Garcia explained that the special focus on RP cinema was an attempt to restore it to its "rightful place as one of the most important, albeit repressed," in Asia.

He said: "Although [Brocka and Diaz] make different types of films ... each of their works is a unique and loving poem to the Filipino."

Garcia reported that Jon Red's "Anak ng Tinapa," a product of the Cinema One film fest, was also shown in Torino, in the Detours section of new and experimental works.

"Last year, Red's 'ASTIGmatism' was premiered in Torino," Garcia said. "His affectionate and cynical world view resonates deeply with the Torino audience."

In Rome, Laurice Guillen's "Santa Santita" was screened in a festival of Asian Cinema. See "Viewfinder," page A4-6.

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION
MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX
9th floor Shangrila Plaza EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City
Telephone: 633.2227 / 6337851 loc. 171

1 (DOLBY) HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLE OF FIRE GP
2 (DOLBY) EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE PG13
3 (DOLBY) F FILM FESTIVAL
4 (DOLBY) PRIME

PREMIERE
(DOLBY) HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLE OF FIRE GP

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DOLBY) THE MYTH
2 (SDDS) FLIGHT PLAN
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 (GOLD DTS) HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
5 GOLD (DOLBY) PRIME
6 GOLD (SDDS) EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
7 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
8 (DOLBY DIGITAL) APRIL SNOW
9 (DOLBY DIGITAL) LEGEND OF ZORRO
10 (DOLBY DIGITAL) MY LITTLE BRIDE

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72

1 (DOLBY) PRIME
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 (DOLBY) EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 GHOST INSIDE
2 (DTS) THE MYTH
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 FOUR BROTHERS

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall (BIÑAN) tel. (049) 4111146
1 GHOST INSIDE
2 (DOLBY) THE MYTH
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 FOUR BROTHERS

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix (Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 DOOM
2 BLADE OF THE ROSE
3 (DOLBY) MY SASSY GIRL

Cinema 2000 Metrotown (Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 ADVENTURE OF SHARK BOY & LAVA GIRL
2 CORPSE BRIDE
3 (DOLBY) FLIGHT PLAN
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 LAND OF THE DEAD
3 (DOLBY) FLIGHT PLAN

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216

1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 THE MYTH
4 MY LITTLE BRIDE

Blue Wave MARQUINTON
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927

1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 (DOLBY) MY LITTLE BRIDE
3 (DOLBY) THE MYTH
4 (DOLBY) EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto tel 7334228

1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
3 THE MYTH
4 PRIME
5 MY LITTLE BRIDE

MARRETHAL
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 DOOM
3 CRY WOLF
4 RESERVED

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 MY LITTLE BRIDE

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)

1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 THE MYTH

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
3 (DOLBY) HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 ADVENTURE OF SHARK BOY & LAVA GIRL

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121

1 GHOST INSIDE
2 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489

1 MY SASSY GIRL
2 DOOM
3 (DOLBY) FLIGHT PLAN
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 DOOM
2 INTO THE BLUE

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS) HIGH RISK
2 SEX EDUCATION
3 BOLD STAR
4 (DTS) LOST ISLAND

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 SYOTA NG BAYAN
3 (DTS) THE MYTH
4 THE DESCENT
5 FOUR BROTHERS

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
2 GHOST INSIDE
3 SHARK BOY & LAVA GIRL
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1 ISPIRITISTA
2 MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL

starmall www.clickthecity.com.ph Movies
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150

1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 THE MYTH
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
5 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE

METROPOLIS www.clickthecity.com.ph star
(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 5433994

1 SEX MEDUSA
2 DOMINO
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
5 (DOLBY) RESERVED
6 RESERVED

starmall www.clickthecity.com.ph Movies
(LAS PINAS) tel. 8735004

1 (DOLBY) RESERVED
2

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

MTRCB RATING G | ALL AGES ARE ADMITTED
THE MAGAZINE PROCLAIMS 'CHICKEN LITTLE'
"ONE OF THE FUNNIEST AND MOST EXHILARATING MOVIES IN YEARS!"
- RICHARD CORLISS

WALT DISNEY PICTURES PRESENTS
CHICKEN LITTLE
ON NOV. 30 WE'LL SEE WHO'S CHICKEN
SOUNDTRACK FEATURES
DISTRIBUTED BY BUENA VISTA INTERNATIONAL disney.com/chickenlittle ©DISNEY
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

NOW SHOWING
MTRCB PG-13 | STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP.
FROM THE PRODUCERS OF "MONSTER-IN-LAW"
uma thurman
meryl streep bryan greenberg
PRIME
A therapeutic romantic comedy.

SENATOR FILM COMPANY and FOCUS FEATURES present a TERRA NOVA/YOUNGER THAN YOU production a film by BEN YOUNGER STARRING URMA THURMAN BRYAN GREENBERG "PRIME" JON ABRAHAMS MERYL STREEP JOU BLACK KRISTINA BODEN PRODUCED BY BARRY BECKER EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS VIRGINIA BEARD ANTHONY KARGAS BRAD JENKEL MARK GORDON BOB YARI DIRECTED BY BEN YOUNGER WRITTEN BY JENNIFER GLOD BEN YOUNGER
FOCUS FEATURES

"This generation's SLEEPLESS IN SEATTLE with a twist of GHOST."
reese witherspoon mark ruffalo
Just Like Heaven
MTRCB RATING G FOR GENERAL AUDIENCE

Only love can bring you back...

DREAMWORKS PICTURES MORNING
SONY MUSIC SOUNDTRAX
www.JustLikeHeaven-the movie.com
united international pictures
A united international release through Solar Entertainment Corporation
IN THEATERS NOVEMBER 30

Now you too can smile your way to fame. JOIN!

closeup FILM

Smile your way to the movies

Be one of 100 individuals cast in the first CloseUp movie! And WIN any of the following cool prizes.

NOKIA PHONES

CANON DIGICAMS

CANON VIDEOCAMS

*actual prizes may differ from models shown

MECHANICS

1. Buy any CloseUp pack with a "CloseUp to Film" sticker.

2. Depending on the pack size, each Sticker Code will have a corresponding number of raffle entries, as follows:

Pack Size	Sachet	25mL Tube	50mL Tube	100mL Tube	150mL Tube
No. of entries	1 entry	5 entries	7 entries	10 entries	15 entries

3. Just text your sticker code once and the system will automatically count the equivalent number of votes based on the pack size purchased. The more entries sent in, the more chances of winning.

4. To join, text **Close Up <Sticker Code>** to **2955** for Globe, Smart and Sun Subscribers. Texters should only text a sticker code once. Example: **CLOSE UP ABC12345**

5. Each text message successfully sent costs P2.50.

6. You will receive a text message confirming the receipt of your entries. You will also receive instructions on how to complete your registration for the raffle as follows:
Text *Close Up Reg <full name> <age> <address> <luz-vis-min>* and send to **2955**
Example: **CLOSE UP REG Ralph Mendoza/23/87 Paris St ,Pasig City/Luz**

7. A confirmation message will be sent informing the participant that he/she has successfully registered. Raffle entries without complete information will not be considered as a valid entry. Registration is free and only needs to be completed once.

RAFFLE WINNERS AND PRIZES

1. A total of 100 winners nationwide will be drawn electronically from the following areas:

Area	Luzon	Visayas	Mindanao
No. of winners	40	30	30

2. Each winner will be included in the cast of the CloseUp movie.

3. Each winner will also receive one of three possible prizes:

Date	Winners	Prize
3rd Week of November	1st Batch of 20 winning texters	Nokia Cellphone
4th Week of November	2nd Batch of 20 winning texters	Nokia Cellphone
1st Week of December	3rd Batch of 20 winning texters	Nokia Cellphone
2nd Week of December	4th Batch of 20 winning texters	Canon Digital Camera
3rd Week of December	5th Batch of 20 winning texters	Canon Video Camera

PROMO RULES & REGULATIONS

1. The promo period is from November 1, 2005 to December 18, 2005.

2. The winner will be notified thru his/her mobile phone and thru registered mail. The following must be presented by the winner for verification and to claim his prize:

   a. Original and Photocopy of two (2) valid IDs with picture and signature, bearing the same name and address that was used in registering for the promo.

   b. Active SIM card used in the registration.

   c. Close Up pack with the winning sticker code. Enclosed sachets and tube packs must be at least 75% or ¾ intact to qualify as valid entries. Sticker should be stickered on the pack and must not have tears, erasures, and any other signs that show tampering. All stickers and packs are subject to the verification of Unilever Philippines, Inc. Sticker must not be detached from the Close Up product.

   d. Winner's notification mail sent by Unilever Philippines, Inc.

   e. Failure to present all requirements will disqualify the winner from claiming the prize.

3. The director of the movie and the Close Up brand team shall have the discretion to assign roles to the winners.

4. All winners will be notified at least one week in advance of the shooting date and location.

5. In the event that a winner can not make it to the movie shooting, their slot shall be forfeited. The director of the movie shall have the discretion to find a substitute if needed.

6. Prizes are tax-free but are non-transferable.

7. Prizes may be claimed at Unilever Philippines, Inc., 1351 United Nations Avenue, Manila.

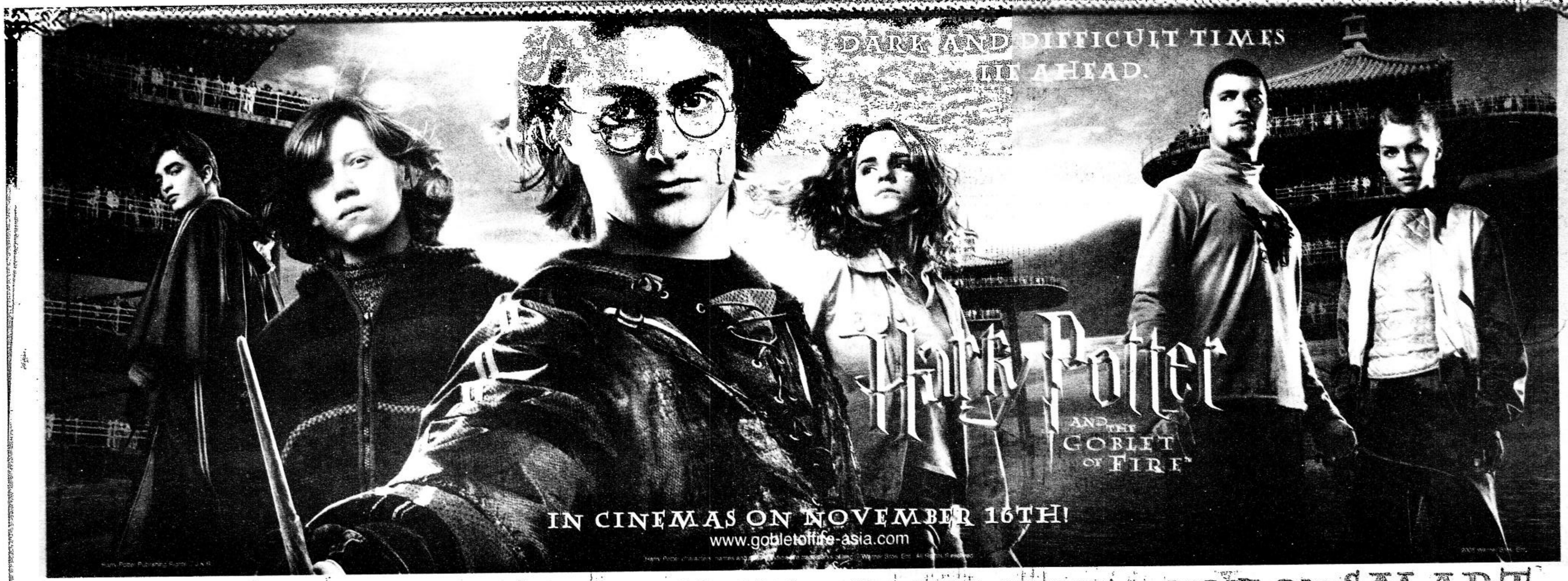
8. Unclaimed prizes after 60 days upon receipt of notification shall be forfeited in favor of Unilever Philippines.

9. Unilever Philippines reserves the right to publish and/or broadcast any winner's names, addresses, photos, and likeness, for advertising and publicity purposes without further compensation to the winner.

10. All employees of Unilever Philippines, their suppliers, third party agencies, Global Wireless Connections Inc., Smart Communications, Inc., Globe Telecom, Sun Cellular and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity and affinity are disqualified from joining the promo.

11. The winner declared by Unilever Philippines, Inc. with the concurrence of the BFAD will be final.

Per DOH-BFAD Permit no. 1183 Series of 2005



HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE™ DOWNLOADS NOW ON SMART.

BE AMONG THE FIRST TO SHARE IN THE NEWEST HARRY POTTER INSTALLMENT WITH VIVID DOWNLOADS FOR YOUR CELFONE.

MMS WALLPAPERS

Text MMS <KEYWORD> to 239.

harry1 harry2 cedric1 cedric2 chochang dumbledore fleur1 fleur2 fredgeorge harry3

harryherm1 harryherm2 harryron herm1 herm2 dragon malfoy neville padmapatil ronherm

ANIMATED SCREENSAVERS

Text MMS <KEYWORD> to 239.

harry harrywand hermione

dragon1 dragon2 madeye

JAVA GAME

Find Scabbers

Help Harry find Scabbers who is lost in the dungeons below Hogwarts Castle. To complete each level, collect all the Bertie Bott's Every-Flavored Beans. Be careful to avoid creatures.

A. To download via WAP:
Go to [illegible]
or
Go to SMART WAP site at:
[illegible]
Click on Amazing Stuff
Go to Gamestation
Click on Hot Games
Select Find Scabbers game

B. To download via SMS:
Text GAME SCABBERS to 239.

RINGBACK TUNE

Text RING ADD 103837 to 239 to get the Harry Potter theme as your Caller Ring Back Tune.

ENJOY VIVID MULTIMEDIA FEATURES ON YOUR CELFONE. SET-UP SMART GPRS AND MMS.

To set GPRS Settings on your phone, text SET GPRS <phone model> to 211. Ex. SET GPRS <N6600>. To activate GPRS on your phone, text GPRS ON to 333.

To set MMS Settings on your phone, text SET MMS <phone model> to 211. Ex. SET MMS <N6600>. To activate MMS on your phone, text MMS ON to 333.

For SMART Gold, SMART Buddy, Addict Mobile, and Talk 'N Text subscribers: Themes cost P30.00. Picture messages, wallpapers and logos cost P15.00 each. All SMS cost P2.50. Time-on-demand for all except Addict Mobile at P10.00; Addict Mobile's at P5.00. For questions, comments, or concerns, you may call the SMART Hotline at 888-1111, send a text message to 888 (P1.00 per message sent in excess of the FREE TEXT allocation), e-mail us at customercare@smart.com.ph, or visit the SMART Wireless Center nearest you.

Get the Harry Potter theme as your ringtone!

TEXT WIZARD TO 239 TODAY.

For polytone, text WIZPOLY to 239.

Open to: Powered by: Information Gateway

SMART Simply Amazing!

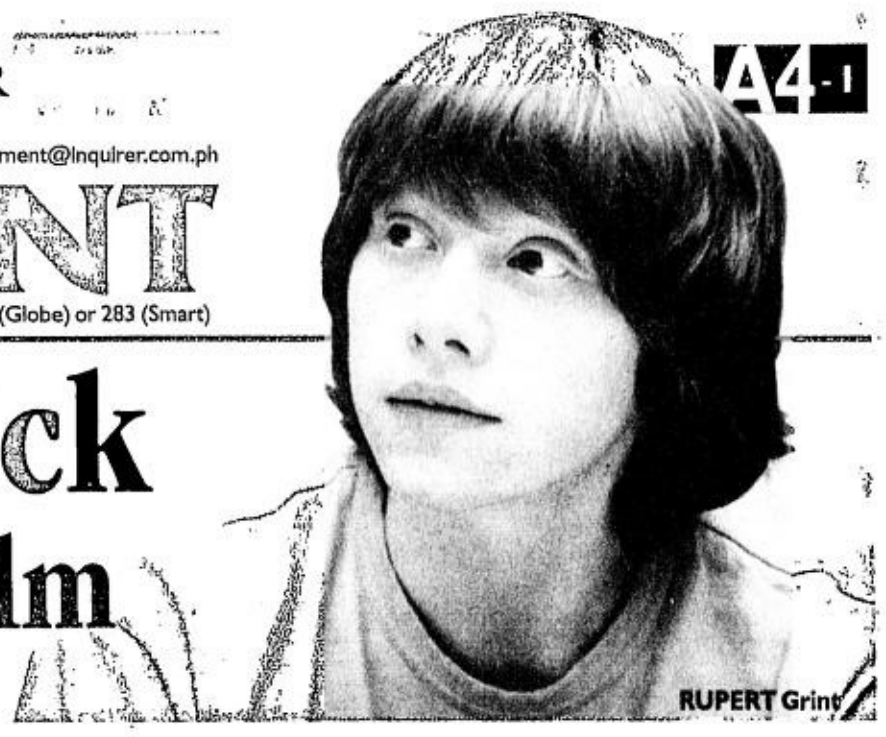
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

ENTERTAINMENT

Text us your feedback: Inquirer ent name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Rupert takes the broomstick in sixth 'Harry Potter' film

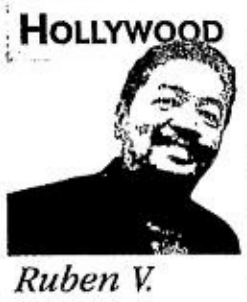


RUPERT Grint

LOS ANGELES—WHEN WE RECENTLY wrote about our London interview with **Daniel Radcliffe**, we promised to write next about his "Harry Potter" co-star, **Rupert Grint**.

We found out that Rupert had a lot of fans from girls around the world, including Filipinas! Many of them e-mailed to make sure I would deliver on my promise. So now we are writing about the red-haired Rupert who is excited about his turn to fly on a broomstick and play Quidditch in the next film in the wildly popular series, "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix" (due out June 2007).

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD



Ruben V. Nepales

While Daniel is confident and articulate, Rupert is shy—which is an appealing quality to many girls. They also love his hangdog expression and his other trademark facial reactions, a combination of scared, worried and what's-this? look. That grimace or stumped look has endeared him and his character, Ron Weasley, to young fans everywhere.

At the Claridges Hotel in London, the young actor reacted with those various expressions to the questions at our press con with him. When a female reporter asked Rupert what he liked in girls and he seemed bashful, the writer prodded him by inquiring if he liked big breasts. The question definitely elicited that smiling, oh-my-Gawd look from him.

Wearing a blue shirt and jeans, he appeared taller than the last time we saw him on the set of "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire" last February. He brought a bottle of Coke which he later drank in a glass between poses for our photographers. Shoulders stooped, he spoke in a very soft voice, often resorting to "um..." between sentences.

Are you doing films other than the "Harry Potter" series?

I've just finished "Driving Lessons." I did this movie after "Goblet of Fire." It's a comedy which I quite enjoyed doing. **Laura Linney** is in it. I definitely want to continue doing more stuff like that.

Do you tend to look for a character that is different from Ron Weasley?

I did another film after the first Harry Potter film called "Thunderpants." My character was completely a geek. I am not really worried about getting labeled like that at the moment. I'm having a really good time playing Ron.

What do you do when you're not filming?

I've started playing golf. I'm also learning to drive a car at the moment and that's taking up quite a lot of time.

If you were not an actor, what would you like to be?

I am not sure. I really do love acting now ... but I remember when I was a lot younger that I always wanted to be an ice cream man.

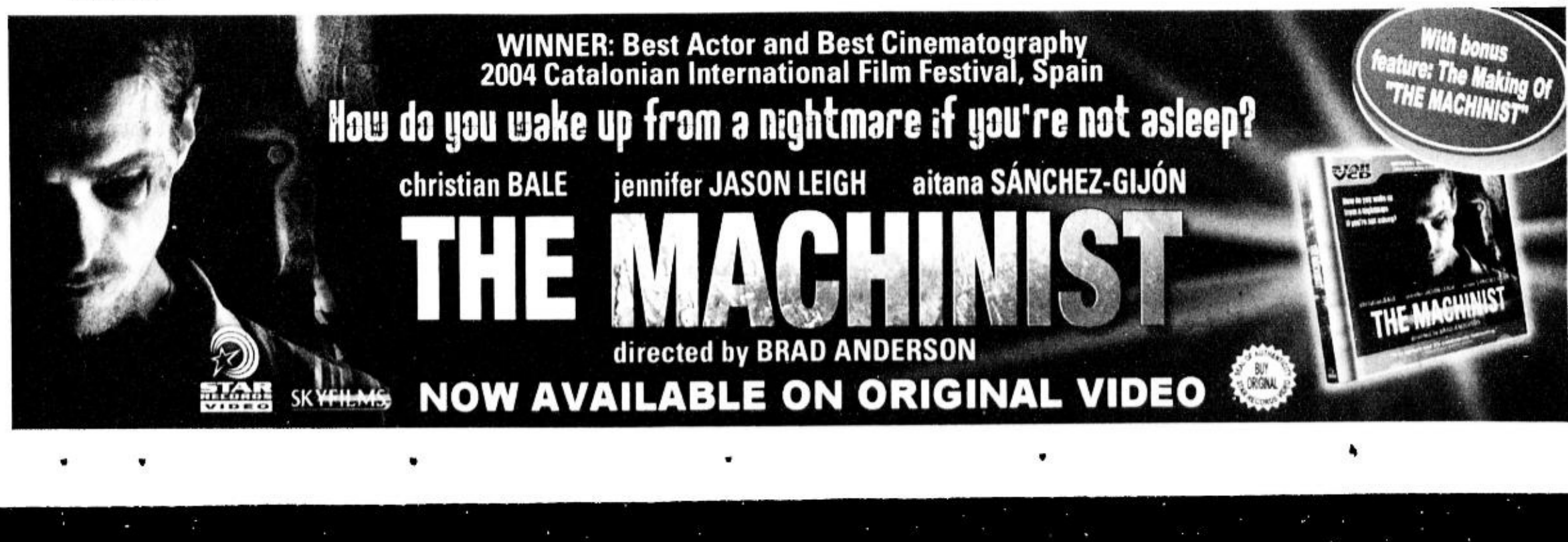
What are you attracted to in girls?

A good sense of humor...

Big t-s?

(Laughter) Okay, yeah. You can say that, yeah.

RUPERT/ A4-2



RODNEY To, award-winning Fil-Am actor in Chicago

Rupert...

From page A4-1

Do you play any musical instrument?

I have a guitar but I don't know how to play it yet. Definitely I want to learn. I like rock at the moment. I like AC/DC—they're cool—and Killers.

Has your success in "Harry Potter" changed your family's standard of living? Perhaps you have moved to a castle?

I suppose it has, a little bit. I don't know about a castle but it's not bad, yeah.

Do you still go to the same school? How are your studies?

When I was in school, I always went to the same one. Now, I'm a bit older and I've left school. I can always go back and take up art in the future.

In this movie, Harry Potter has dreams and nightmares. Do you remember your dreams?

I do sometimes remember them, yeah. I tend to have really surreal dreams.

How often do you and the main cast see each other?

When we're filming, we see each other every day. This one took about a year to make. I play golf occasionally with the twin brothers in the film.

Do you play pranks on each other?

In the early days we did, yeah, but now we're a bit more mature.

What do you have in common with Ron?

We both come from a big family and we both hate spiders. And we both have ginger hair.

And what do you have in common with Daniel?

Obviously, the physical things that change, like our voice. We have the same sense of humor. We muck about occasionally.

Not everybody gets to dance with the great Maggie Smith. What was that like?

I was a bit scared about that but it turned out to be quite fun. We had a choreographer on the set.

Rap with Rodney

ALSO as promised, here are excerpts of our interview with actor Rodney To, the Filipino-American partner of "Rent" star Anthony Rapp.

Tell us about the award that you just received in Chicago.

I was recently inducted into the Chicago Filipino American Hall of Fame. I was recognized for "Outstanding Achievement in the Performing Arts." I [was nominated for performing] the title role in "The Romance of Magno Rubio" at the Victory Gardens Theater in Chicago.

RUPERT/ A2-3

SM Cinema movietime — CALL NOW 833-9999
NOW SHOWING
Box Office News · Movie Schedules · Live Events
SM Cinema Center Stage — FOR INQUIRIES 6311000 loc. 9671,9673,3062,3001

SM movietime exclusive — Distributed by PIONEER FILMS
Samuel Jackson · Eugene Levy
The MAN
Directed by Les Mayfield
COMING SOON ON NOVEMBER 30
Bacoor, Bicutan, Fairview, Las Piñas, Manila, Megamall, North EDSA, San Lazaro, Sta. Mesa, Sucat, and Valenzuela

SM movietime exclusive — PLDT vibe
MEL GIBSON presents
PAPARAZZI
ONE GOOD SHOT DESERVES ANOTHER
Meet the successful Bo Laramie, who realized that stardom comes with a price, as four persistent photographers had their dishonest ways just to get his every move.
WATCH TODAY AND GET 1 PLDT VIBE CARD FOR EVERY 2 TICKET PURCHASE
North EDSA, Megamall, Sta. Mesa, Fairview, Manila, Las Piñas, Bacoor

PREMIERE — movietime SCHEDULE AND EVENTS
Manila — JUST LIKE HEAVEN — Nov. 28 • Cinema 6
Megamall — AN UNFINISHED LIFE — Dec. 1 • Cinema 2
Megamall — ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS — Nov. 29 • Cinema 2
Megamall — THE FOG — Dec. 5 • Cinema 1
LOOK WHO'S WATCHING AT SM NORTH EDSA! — CHICKEN LITTLE

GUARANTEED SEATS

THE PODIUM 633-8976
1 HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE 11:40FS/12:10MF/03:20/06:30 09:10LFS/09:40LMF/12:20END
2 PRIME 11:30FS/11:55MF/02:10/04:25/06:40 08:30LFS/09:00LMF/10:50END
MEGAMALL
1 HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE 11:00FS/11:30MF/02:40/05:50 08:30LFS/09:00LMF/11:40END
CEBU (032) 231-3876
1 CHILDREN OF EDEN
2 THE MYTH 10:30FS/10:40MF/12:50/03:00/05:10/07:20 09:18LFS/09:30LMF/11:30END
3 HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE 11:55FS/12:15MF/03:20/06:25 09:05LFS/09:30LMF/12:10END
MANILA
6 PAPARAZZI 10:45FS/11:10MF/12:55/02:40/04:25 06:10/07:55/09:20LFS/09:30LMF/11:05END

METRO MANILA
SM MEGAMALL: 1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE, 2 FLIGHTPLAN, 3 THE MYTH, 4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE, 5 PRIME, 6 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE, 7 PAPARAZZI, 8 APRIL SNOW, 9 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE, 10 MY LITTLE BRIDE, 11 LEGEND OF ZORRO, 12 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
SM CITY FAIRVIEW: 1 MY LITTLE BRIDE, 2 PAPARAZZI, 3 APRIL SNOW, 4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE, 5 PRIME, 6 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE, 7 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE, 8 THE MYTH, 9 FLIGHTPLAN, 10 LEGEND OF ZORRO, 11 ISPIRITISTA, 12 RESERVED
SM CITY NORTH EDSA: 1 THE MYTH, 2 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE, 3 PRIME, 4 APRIL SNOW, 5 PAPARAZZI, 6 FLIGHTPLAN, 7 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE, 8 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
SM CITY STA. MESA: 1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE, HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE, 2 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE, 3 PRIME, 4 THE MYTH, 5 MY LITTLE BRIDE, 6 FLIGHTPLAN, 7 PAPARAZZI, 8 APRIL SNOW, 9 LEGEND OF ZORR
SM CITY SOUTHMALL: 1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE, 2 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE, 3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE, 4 THE MYTH, 5 PRIME, 6 FLIGHTPLAN, 7 PAPARAZZI, 8 LEGEND OF ZORRO, 9 MY LITTLE BRIDE, 10 APRIL SNOW
SM CITY MANILA: 1 THE MYTH, 2 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE, 3 MY LITTLE BRIDE, 4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE, 5 LEGEND OF ZORRO, 6 PAPARAZZI, 7 APRIL SNOW, 8 FLIGHTPLAN, 9 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE, 10 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE, 11 ISPIRITISTA, 12 PRIME
SM CITY BICUTAN: 1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE, 2 THE MYTH, 3 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE, 4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
SM VALENZUELA (NOW OPEN): 1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE, 2 THE MYTH, 3 MY LITTLE BRIDE, 4 DUBAI
SUPERCENTER SUCAT: 1 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE, 2 THE MYTH, 3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE, 4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
SM CINEMA SAN LAZARO: 1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE, 2 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE, 3 THE MYTH, 4 PRIME, 5 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE, 6 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

WORLD-CLASS, PROUDLY PINOY!
Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros
"Kuwento ito ng batang bading pero hindi ito tungkol sa kabaklaan. It's about first love but more importantly it's about love for family. I LOVE THIS FILM!" — Olivia M. Lamasan (Director, MILAN)
"May puso. WORLD-CLASS PINOY FILM." — Maryo J. Delos Reyes (Director, MAGNIFICO)
BEST PICTURE — Montreal World Film Festival 2005 First Films Competition
BEST PICTURE and BEST ACTOR, BEST PRODUCTION DESIGN — Cinemalaya 2005
BEST PICTURE, BEST DIRECTOR and BEST ACTOR — Asian Festival of First Films
BEST PICTURE — ImagineNATIVE Film Festival Toronto
COMING SOON

LUZON
SM CITY PAMPANGA: 1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE, 2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE, 3 DOMINO, 4 ISPIRITISTA, 5 HISTORY OF VIOLENCE, 6 THE MYTH
SM CITY BACOOR: 1 MY LITTLE BRIDE, 2 ISPIRITISTA, 3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE, 4 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE, 5 THE MYTH, 6 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE, 7 FLIGHTPLAN, 8 PAPARAZZI
SM CITY DASMARIÑAS: 1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE, 2 ADVENTURE OF SHARKBOY & LAVA GIRL, 3 CRY WOLF, 4 THE MYTH
SM CITY BAGUIO: 1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE, 2 THE MYTH, 3 FOUR BROTHERS, 4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
SM CITY LUCENA: 1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE, 2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE, 3 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN, 4 ADVENTURE OF SHARKBOY & LAVA GIRL
SM CITY MARILAO: 1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE, 2 ADVENTURE OF SHARKBOY & LAVA GIRL, 3 HISTORY OF VIOLENCE, 4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
SM MOLINO (NOW OPEN): 1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE, 2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE, 3 THE MYTH, 4 MY LITTLE BRIDE
SM CITY BATANGAS: 1 ADVENTURE OF SHARKBOY & LAVA GIRL, 2 MY SASSY GIRL, 3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE, 4 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO
SM CITY CEBU: 1 STAGE PLAY: CHILDREN OF EDEN, 2 THE MYTH, 3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE, 4 FOUR BROTHERS, 5 THE GHOST INSIDE, 6 FLIGHTPLAN, 7 LEGEND OF ZORRO, 8 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
SM CITY ILOILO: 1 UNDISCOVERED, 2 RESERVED, 3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE, 4 FLIGHTPLAN, 5 AB-NORMAL BEAUTY, 6 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE, 7 RESERVED, 8 TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE
SM CITY DAVAO: 1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE, 2 WAITING, 3 FOUR BROTHERS, 4 THE GHOST INSIDE, 5 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE, 6 THE MYTH
SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO: 1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE, 2 TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE, 3 ADVENTURE OF SHARKBOY & LAVA GIRL, 4 DOOM

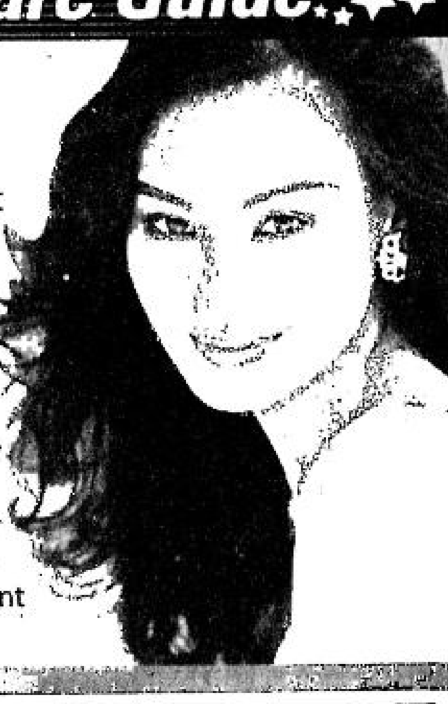
SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE
*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA,

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City
For inquiries, call: 687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE
1 PRIME 12:45, 2:50, 5:25, 8:00, 10:35 R-13
2 HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE 12:45, 4:10, 7:35, 11:00 GP
3 HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE 12:00, 3:25, 6:50, 10:15 GP
4 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE 11:55, 2:45, 5:35, 8:25, 11:00 PG-13

MTRCB RATING PG-13 — Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
OPENS NOVEMBER 30!
CANNES FILM FESTIVAL — FRENCH NOMINEE FOR THE 2006 OSCAR
"A TRUE STORY THAT HISTORY HAS FORGOTTEN"
Featuring ... DIANE KRUGER (TROY, NATIONAL TREASURE, & WICKER PARK)

NORD-OUEST presents
MERRY CHRISTMAS
a film by Christian Carion
BENNO FÜRMANN•GUILLAUME CANET (LOVE ME IF YOU DARE & THE BEACH)
DANIEL BRÜHL (GOODBYE LENIN)•GARY LEWIS(GANGS OF NEW YORK)•DANY BOON
Release thru TMV Films, Int'l. 0918-9103391/0917-8118013 www.joyeuxnoel-lefilm.com

Araneta Center Leisure Guide.



Vote for Miss Philippines Carlene Aguilar in the Miss World beauty pageant
Simply text MW (space) 114 to
2345 - Globe & Sun
2441 - Smart & T&T
or log on to http://missworldvote.ninesystems.com
You can vote as many times as you want until December 10

CINEMA SCHEDULES
Gateway Cineplex 10 — LEVEL 4, GATEWAY MALL
ONLY P99 ADMISSION · P120 RESERVED SEATS · P140 HARRY POTTER · GLOBE PLATINUM P249 / P299
FOR INQUIRIES, PLEASE CALL TICKETNET AT 911-5555
HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE 12:40 / 1:20 / 2:20 / 3:10 / 3:40 / 4:20 / 5:20 / 6:20 / 6:40 / 7:20 / 8:20 / 9:30 / 9:40
PRIME 1:05 / 3:50 / 6:35 / 9:20
THE MYTH 1:15 / 4:00 / 6:45 / 9:30
EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE 1:30 / 4:10 / 6:50 / 9:30
GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA
HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE 3:00 / 6:00 / 9:00
APRIL SNOW 2:00 / 4:20 / 6:40 / 9:00
FLIGHT PLAN 2:00 / 4:30 / 7:00 / 9:30

ALI MALL CINEMAS
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET 12:00 / 2:50 / 5:40 / 8:30
2 THE MYTH 12:20 / 3:05 / 5:50 / 8:35
3 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE 12:10 / 2:50 / 5:30 / 8:10
4 MY LITTLE BRIDE 12:30 / 3:00 / 5:30 / 8:00
5 PRIME 12:25 / 3:10 / 5:55 / 8:40

ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS
PETER & GORDON - WORLD REUNION TOUR — December 1, Thursday 8:30 pm
ATENEO - LA SALLE DREAM GAMES '05 — Dec 8 Thu LEGENDS GAME 4:30 pm DREAM GAME 7pm

CENTER EVENTS
Everything Christmas HOLIDAY BAZAAR
Toys and gifts galore! November 11 to December 11, Cinema Level Near Oasis Gateway Mall

LOG ON TO www.aranetacenter.net FOR MORE DETAILS OR TO SUBSCRIBE TO OUR WEEKLY E-MAIL ENTERTAINMENT UPDATES

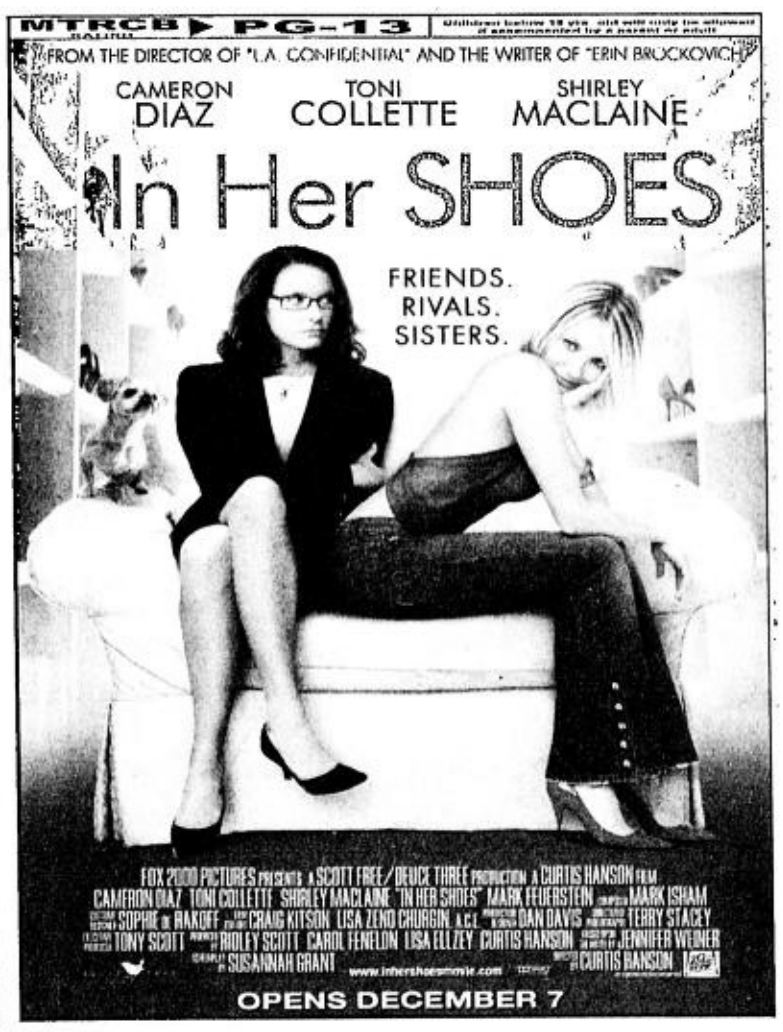
Rupert takes the broomstick in the sixth . . . From page A4-1

What was truly special was, here were Filipinos telling a Filipino story on the stage of a major [Tony Award-winning] theater. And the people—majority in the house was white—loved it. I remember the first day of rehearsals when I heard the cast read the script for the first time. We all used Filipino accents and understood the story because it was our very own and not us mimicking some other Asian story that we didn't personally connect to. So to receive the wonderful response and then to be recognized for my work was just overwhelming.

It was also quite emotional because most of my family live in Chicago and it was quite a homecoming for me. My mom, brothers and my 92-year-old *lola* were in the theater for opening night. That had never happened in my career until then. For them to witness this milestone in my life added significance to the occasion.

I've been so fortunate to do two very important Filipino plays back to back, "Magno Rubio" and **Jessica Hagedorn's** "Dogeaters." Anthony helped me rehearse lines constantly. I had a lot of Tagalog lines in both. Anthony is one of the smartest people I know when it comes to languages and accents. He's like a sponge. I'm sure Anthony knows

RUPERT/ A4-4



THE BIGGEST SELLING BOY BAND OF ALL TIME.

LIVE in MANILA

backstreet boys
never gone tour

Araneta Coliseum

January 20, 2006 8Pm

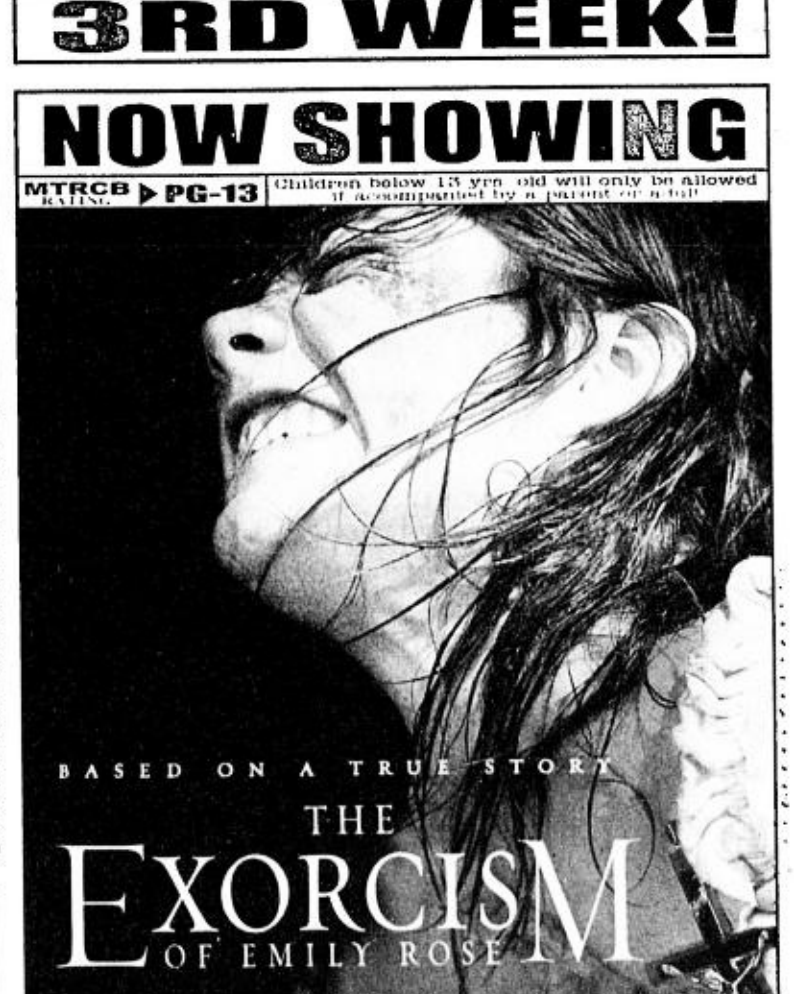
Ticket Price: Patron P5,000 Lower Box P4,000 Upper Box A P3,000 (Guaranteed Seats)
Upper Box B P1,000 General Admission P500 (Free Seating)

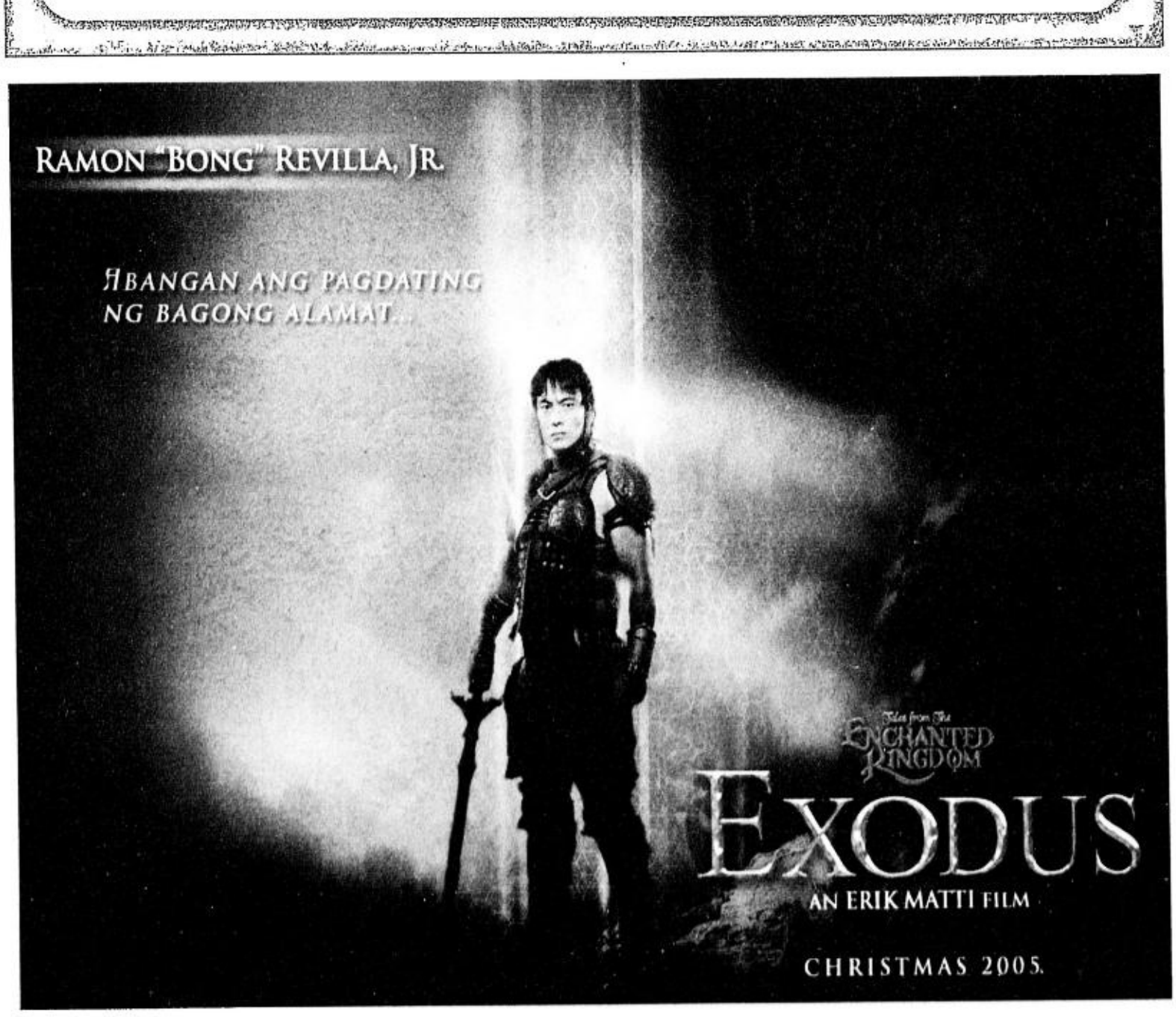
Tickets available at all SM Ticketnet Outlets and Araneta Coliseum. Tel. No. 911-5555
For inquiries call VIVA Concerts & Events Tel. No. 687-6181 Loc 715 & 620

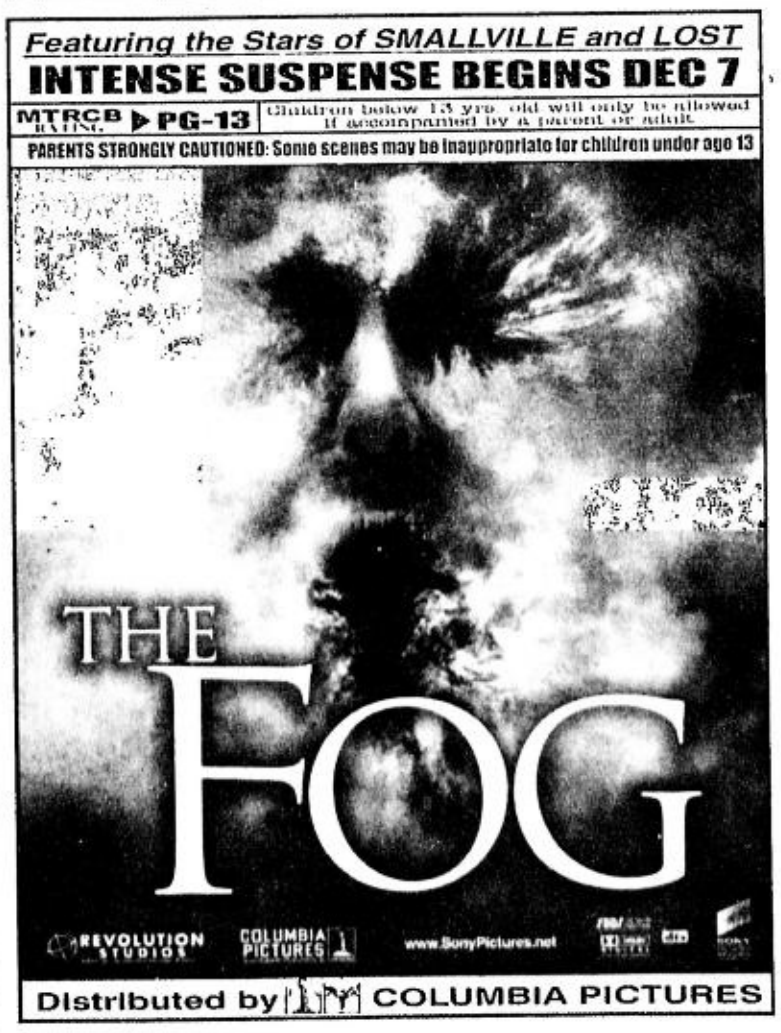
SONY BMG MUSIC ENTERTAINMENT

VIVA CONCERTS & EVENTS

3RD WEEK!







GREENHILLS CINEMAS
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA
THEATRE-MALL
GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 1 THE MYTH PG13 10:40, 1:10, 3:40, 6:10, 8:40
CINEMA 2 HARRY POTTER & The GOBLET OF FIRE GP - 11:00, 2:20, 5:40, 9:00
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND EX
PROMENADE
GREENHILLS
...a diversion for all!
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 3 PRIME P13 11:20, 2:05, 4:50, 7:35, 10:20
CINEMA 4 The EXORCISM of Emily Rose PG13 - 11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
CINEMA 5 HARRY POTTER & The GOBLET OF FIRE GP - 12:00, 3:20, 6:40, 10:00
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.
MUSIC MUSEUM
November 24, 2005 LANCE REYMUNDO 8PM
November 25, 2005 JIMMY BONDOC 8PM
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL : 721-6726 OR 721-0635

SHANG CINEPLEX
1 HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE
MTRCB: GP
12:15, 3:30, 6:45, 10:00pm LMF
2 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
MTRCB : PG-13
1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00pm LMF
3 F FILM FESTIVAL
4 PRIME
MTRCB : R-13
1:40, 4:10, 6:40, 9:10pm LMF
PREMIERE THEATRE HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE
MTRCB. GP 11:15, 2:30, 5:45, 9:00 LMF
Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice
Catch the Cineplex Special
WATCH THE F FILM FESTIVAL AT CINEPLEX 3 on November 24 - 29
Admission is free. Tickets will be available two (2) hours before each screening time at the Level 6 ticket booth. Strictly one ticket shall be issued per person on a first come, first served basis.
Regular Ticket Price
Cinemas 1 to 4 - P150
Premiere Theatre - P295 (includes unlimited popcorn and beverage)
Call 633-7851, loc 171 or 633-7277 / 633-4738 for more details
Shangri-La Plaza

Rupert . . .

From page A4-3

as much Tagalog as I do at this point. And that's quite a lot!

How is "Rent" the musical theater production and movie relevant to your life with Anthony?

It's interesting because I wasn't a "Renthead" to start with. [But] being with Anthony and knowing what "Rent" meant to him and all the others whose lives "Rent" affected, I appreciate it much more. "Rent" is important to me [now]—it's valid, powerful and remarkable.

Anthony has been with the project since it was "workshopped." For it to come full circle from that simple workshop, to Broadway, and then to the big screen is just phenomenal. I'm so proud of him for that. I am constantly amazed and inspired by his dedication to "Rent." I got to spend a lot of time on the set of "Rent." I got to actually shoot for a few days on the film—though my scenes did not make it to the final cut—and witness first-hand what the project meant to Anthony, the cast and crew. It made me realize how their hard work and dedication paid off and how lucky I am to take part in it. I'm proud beyond words.

Do you and Anthony plan to visit the Philippines?

I love it there! I know Anthony would love it as well. Unlike myself, Anthony loves hot weather so he'll do just fine out there. We've taken trips to Thailand and Hong Kong, and he loved it. The only problem right now is scheduling. He's so busy with the movie and his book that's coming out. I'm also incredibly busy. But as soon as we find a few weeks to get away, the Philippines will be high on our list.

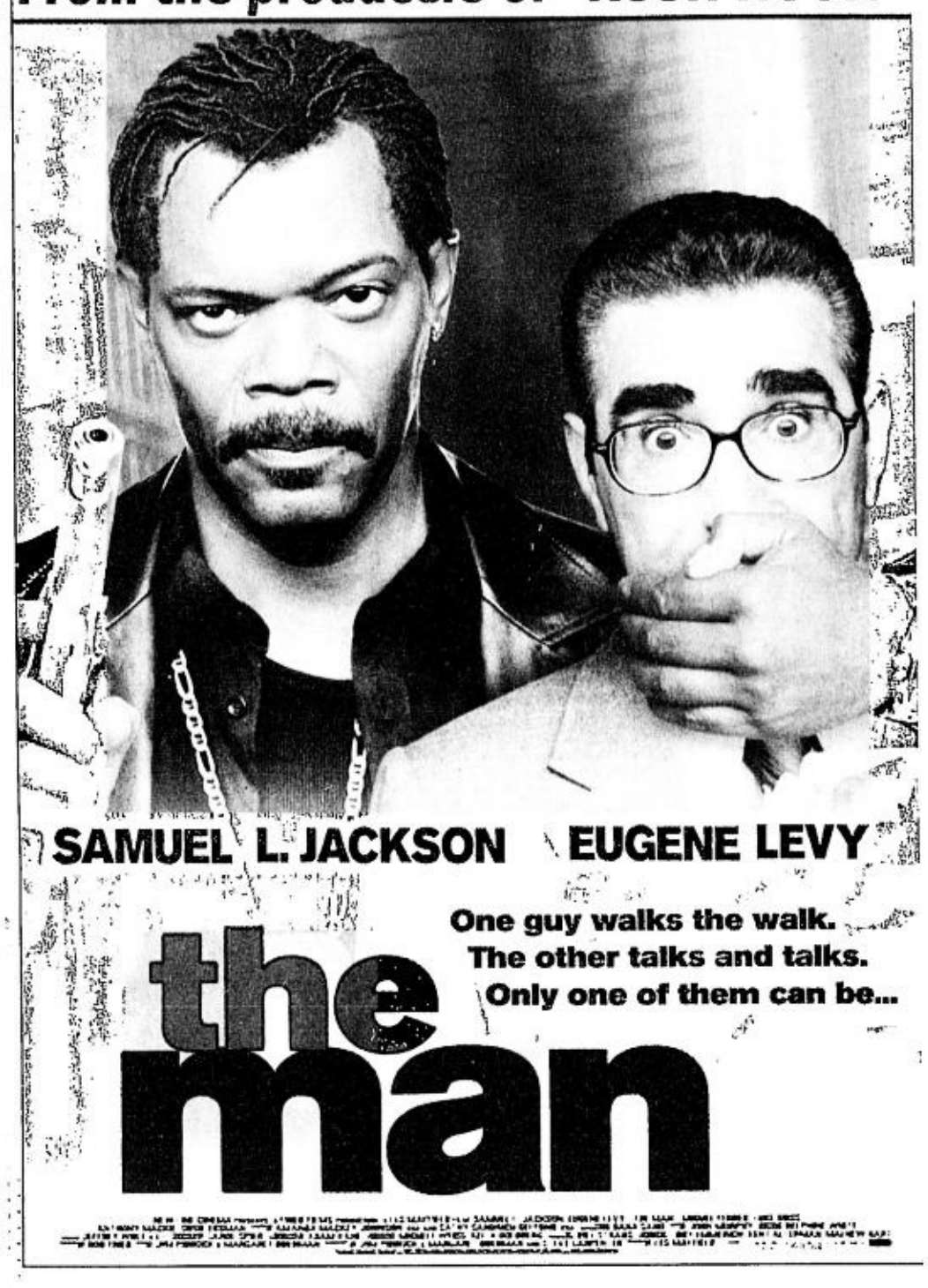
Where is your family?

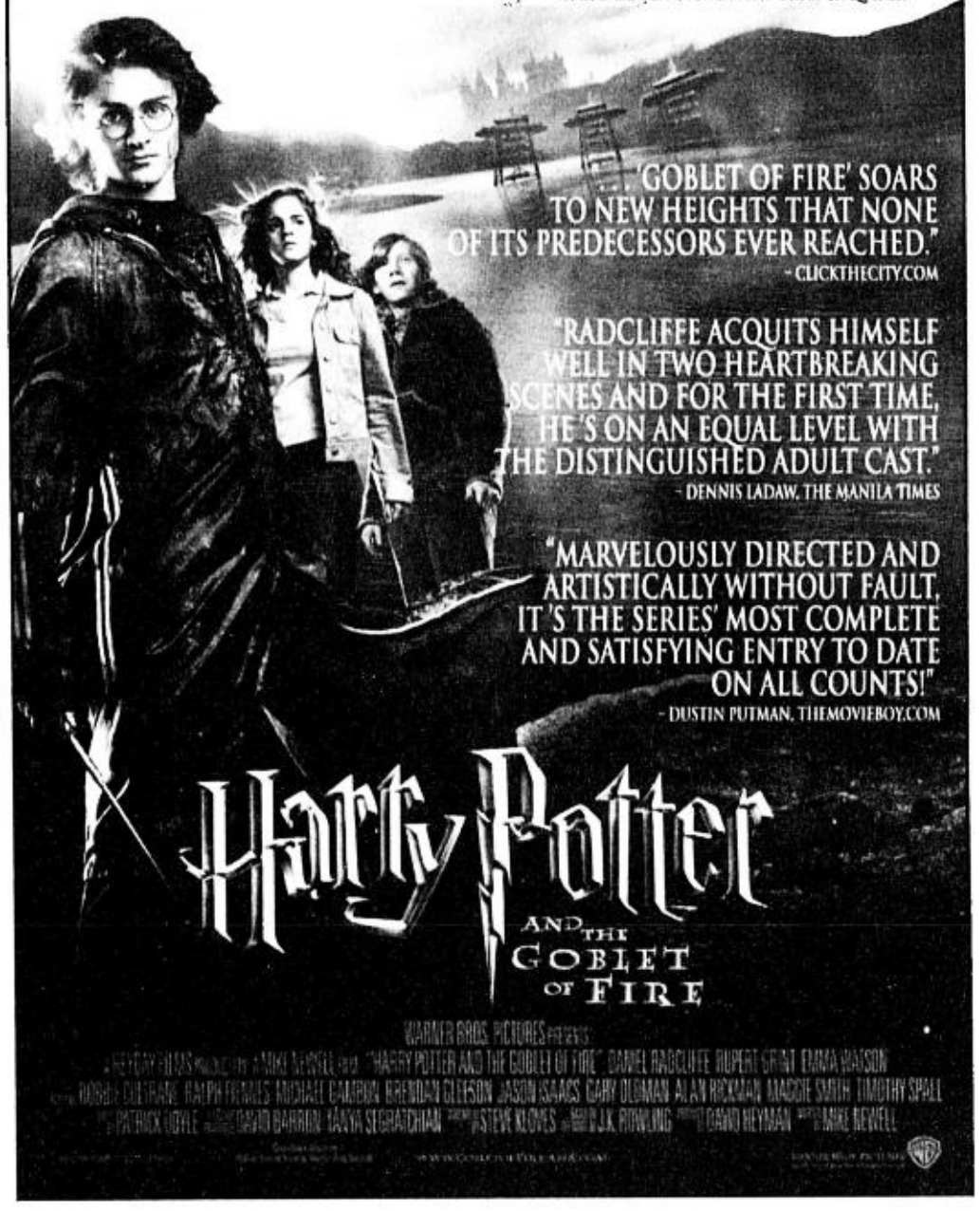
My family is from Davao. My mom, **Jean To**, is from Toril and that is the family that I know. It's a large family—and loud!—and most have migrated to the US. They like to go back to the Philippines as often as they can. Right now, they are there for a family reunion. I have been there a few times myself and I absolutely love it. I love Filipino food, so that helps.

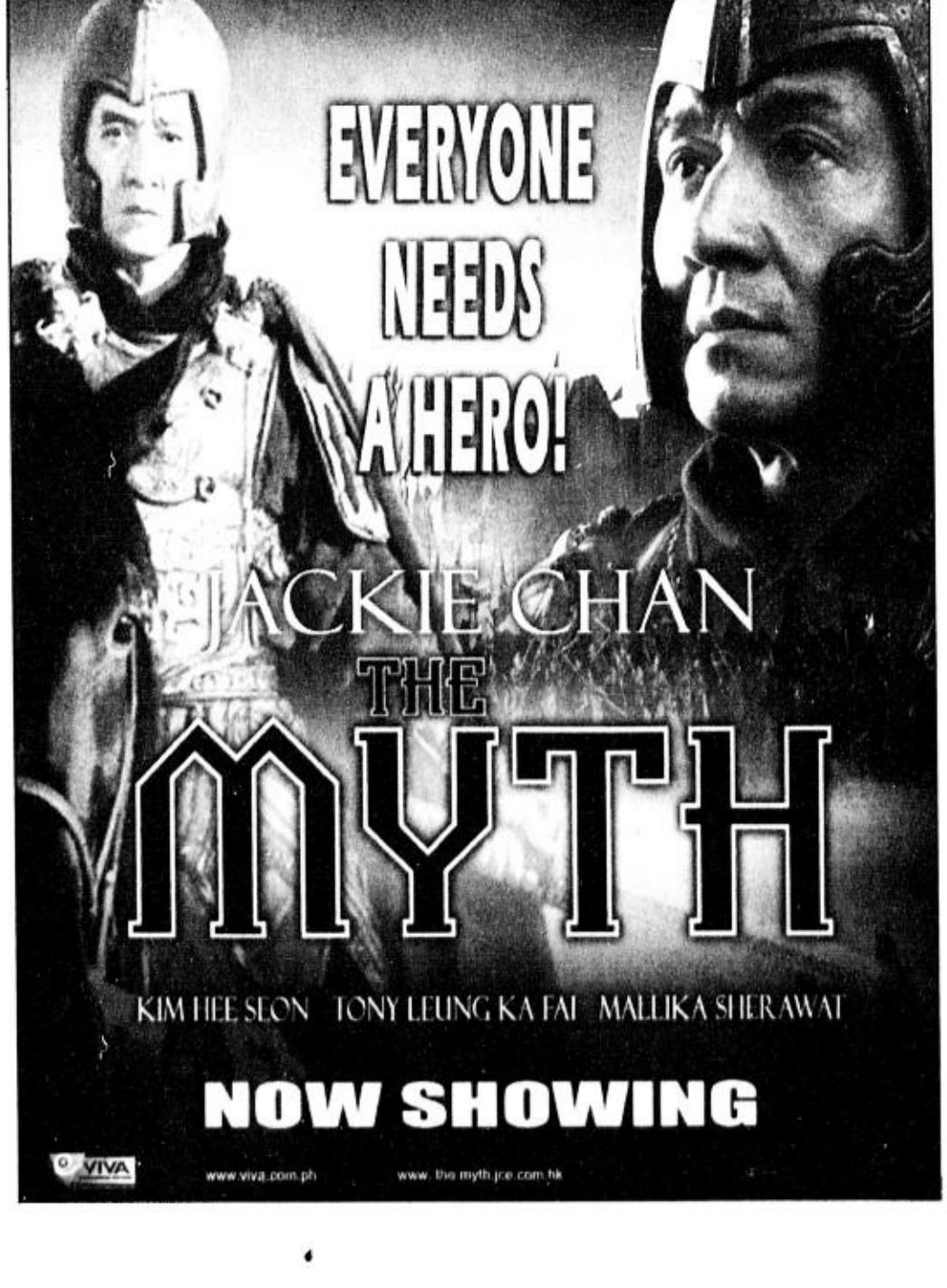
What's next for you, career-wise?

I am currently working with a producer at HBO on my one-person show. They saw the last production I did, "Sides: The Fear is Real" which was a critical success here in New York. They approached me about creating and starring in my own one-person show to take to the HBO Comedy Festival in Aspen, Colorado. That's exciting. It's a lot of hard work and incredibly scary, but very exhilarating as well. Also, I just finished shooting an episode of the new CBS show "Love Monkey" with **Tom Cavanaugh** and **Jason Priestly**. It starts airing next season. My theater company is in the middle of talks for the touring production of "Sides..." which would keep me traveling quite a bit.

E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com

OPENS NOV. 30
EXCLUSIVELY AT ALL SM CINEMAS
From the producers of "RUSH HOUR"


NOW SHOWING
MTRCB RATING G General Audience ALL AGES ADMITTED
"WICKED, INDEED!"
-RUEL S. DE VERA, PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER


MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or parent.
IT'S NOT JUST A MYTH...
IT'S A CERTIFIED BOX OFFICE HIT!


WALANG TIGIL NA KATATAWANAN PARA SA BUONG PAMILYA!
paolo contis nadine samonte tuesday vargas & jay-r
nova villa joel torre bianca king dion ignacio pekto

AYALA CENTER GLORIETTA • Greenbelt

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

AYALA CENTER CEBU

AYALA MALLS Lovemall!

AYALA CENTER GLORIETTA Lovemall!

Shop & Win at Glorietta 1

July 1 - December 15, 2005

Win Nokia, Sony Ericsson Cellphones with Prepaid Kits, Gameboy Advance, iPod Shuffle, DVD Players and Electronic Gift Certificates on the monthly draws: On the Grand Raffle Draw, get a chance to win **P10,000 and P50,000 CASH Tax Free!**

See leaflets for details.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A1-483, Series of 2005

At the Activity Center

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	AYALA CENTER CEBU
JVC Interscholastic Badminton Championship November 21 to 23, 2005	Christmas Serenade w/ Afinity Nov. 30	Metro Product Launching November 26, 2005

AYALA GREENBELT

WWF Savour Nature Festive Buffet
November 23, 2005, GB 3 Park

GREENBELT 3 Onstage

REPERTORY PHILIPPINES presents
MAN OF LA MANCHA - The Musical
at REP's GLOBE THEATER
November 11 to December 18, 2005
For inquiries, please call 887-0710

Ayala MUSEUM

Registration for Art Workshops now on-going at Ayala Museum
For inquiries, please call 757-7117 to 21 loc 29.
Online registration at www.ayalamuseum.org

AYALA CINEMAS

AYALA CINEMAS

THX

Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification call 729 7777

G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE	2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE	3 PRIME	4 THE MYTH
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE	2 PRIME	3 THX HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE 12:45, 4:00, 7:15, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 FLIGHTPLAN	5 APRIL SNOW	6 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE	7 WAITING
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 THE MYTH 12:40, 3:10, 5:40, 8:10		2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE 11:20, 2:30, 5:40, 8:50	
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE 1:40, 4:55, 8:10, 11:25 GUARANTEED SEATS		2 THX HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE 1:05, 4:20, 10:50 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	3 PRIME 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 THE MYTH 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE		2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE	
	3 THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE	4 PRIME	5 THE MYTH	
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE	2 THE MYTH	3 FOUR BROTHERS	4 THE DESCENT

Be among the first to watch at regular admission prices

SPECIAL SNEAK PREVIEW

Walt Disney Pictures Presents

CHICKEN LITTLE

disney.com/chickenlittle

November 28 (Monday)

Alabang Town Center • Glorietta 4
Greenbelt 3 • Market! Market!
Ayala Center Cebu

© Disney Enterprises Inc

Gaisano Visita International

MTRCB Rating: General Audience (G)

Regular run begins November 30

AYALA CINEMAS

Customer Service text hotline: 0917 6095900
Customer Service text hotline: Glorietta - 752 7272; from 10am to 8pm
Greenbelt - 757 4853; from 11am to 12mn

Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; from 10am to 8pm
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc 324

All-Digital Cinemas

MARKET! MARKET!

The fun is in the finds

Developed and managed by Ayala Land, Inc

Movies are subject to change without prior notice.
Customer Service Hotline: 886-7515

Free Seating Cinemas: P80.00

1. HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2. THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
3. PRIME
4. HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
5. THE MYTH

EVENTS! EVENTS!

MARKET! MARKET!

The fun is in the finds

Holiday Fireworks Show

November 20, 27
December 4, 11, 18 and 25,
7 pm at the Playzone

Market! Market! Simbang Gabi
at the 5th level lobby
Dec. 15 - 23, 6:30 pm

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

MOVIEWORLD

CINEMA ACCESS
635-5555
FOR ALL BRANCHES

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA 632-9116

1 HARRY POTTER 4• THX
12:00 3:10 6:20 9:30

2 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
12:30 3:40 6:50 10:00

3 PRIME
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

4 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
11:30 2:40 6:50 9:00

5 THE MYTH
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

6 THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

7 MY LITTLE BRIDE
12:20 2:40 5:00 7:20 9:40

8 APRIL SNOW
12:50 3:10 5:30 7:50 10:00

9 FLIGHTPLAN
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

10 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
1:25 4:10 6:55 9:40

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 HARRY POTTER and the GOBLET of FIRE 10:20 1:15 4:10 7:05 10:00

2 MY LITTLE BRIDE
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 9:50

3 APRIL SNOW
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 9:50

4 FLIGHTPLAN
10:30 12:15 2:00 4:00 8:00 9:50

5 THE MYTH
10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

6 THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

7 PRIME
10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
1:30 4:00 6:30 9:00

2 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
12:10 3:20 6:30 9:40

3 THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
1:00 3:40 6:20 9:00

4 FLIGHTPLAN
12:40 2:45 4:50 6:55 9:00

5 THE MYTH
1:00 3:40 6:20 9:00

6 PRIME
1:20 3:55 6:30 9:05

7 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
12:45 3:55 7:05

8 MY LITTLE BRIDE
1:20 3:55 6:30 9:05

NOVALICHES 935-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
2 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
3 THE MYTH
4 THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575 PIONEER 687-5378

1 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
2 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

1 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
2 THE MYTH
3 PRIME
4 THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE

WHO YOU CALLIN' CHICKEN?

Walt Disney Pictures Presents

CHICKEN LITTLE

IN CINEMAS NOVEMBER 30

SNEAK PREVIEWS

robinsons movieworld

GALLERIA • ERMITA • METRO EAST • IMUS
NOVALICHES • STA. ROSA • DASMARIÑAS • ANGELES
STARMILLS, PAMPANGA • BACOLOD • ILOILO

NOVEMBER 28

For SCREENING SCHEDULES, pls call our CINEMA ACCESS, 635-5555 or visit us: www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MTRCB Rating: G

STA. ROSA (049) 837-0907 LIPA (043) 757-3664 (043) 312-5970

1 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
2 THE ADV. of SHARKBOY & LAVAGIRL
3 DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS 2
4 FOUR BROTHERS
5 THE MYTH

1 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
2 THE ADV. of SHARKBOY & LAVAGIRL
3 DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS 2
4 THE 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN

DASMARIÑAS (046) 852-2125 (046) 416-4332 ANGELES (045) 892-2348

1 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
2 WAITING
3 DOMINO
4 THE MYTH

1 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
2 THE 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
3 ILUSYON
4 THE ADV. OF SHARKBOY & LAVAGIRL

IMUS (046) 875-3836 (046) 471-8168 STARMILLS (045) 875-1927 (045) 961-5270

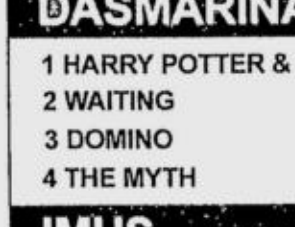
1 THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
2 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
3 DOMINO
4 THE MYTH
5 MY LITTLE BRIDE

1 AB-NORMAL; BEAUTY
2 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
3 ILUSYON
4 A HISTORY OF VIOLENCE
5 DOMINO
6 THE MYTH

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453 (034) 441-0459 ILOILO (033) 336-8070

1 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
2 WAITING
3 DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS 2
4 THE CORPSE BRIDE
5 MY SASSY GIRL
6 ILUSYON

1 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
2 THE DESCENT
3 AB-NORMAL BEAUTY
4 THE CORPSE BRIDE



The Perfect Gift All Year Round

A Pre Paid Movie Pass to the Hottest Seats in town.

Get Special discounts for volume purchases!

For marketing and events/reservations please call Marketing Services Department at 687-7945 to 47 locals 14 and 15

'Santa Santita' shown in film fest of Asian movies in Rome

THERE ARE HUNDREDS OF FILM festivals mounted all over the world each year, but we're partial to film fests with a distinctly Asian flavor.

That's why we had an exceptionally good and instructive time at the Fukuoka Film Festival, which showcases movies from different Asian countries, and has even helped "discover" the films of Vietnam, Cambodia and other "obscure" movie industries for the world market.

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. Nos. 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND EX

THE MYTH PG13 12:15,2:45,5:15,7:45,10:15	HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE GP 1:40,4:50,8:00	HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE GP 11:30,2:40,5:50,9:00
EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE PG13 12:15,2:45,5:15,7:45,10:15	PRIME PG13 12:30,2:50,5:10,7:30,9:50	HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE GP 12:30,3:40,6:50,10:00

Last week, we were again elated to hear about another "Asia-centric" film fest, Italy's Asiaticafilmediale, which winds up today in Rome.

The event is organized by the Cultural Association Mnemosync, in collaboration with the Foundation Musica per Roma, with the support of the City of Rome and Italy's Ministry of Culture.

Even better, we learned that the Philippines was represented at the festival by **Laurice Guillen**'s "Santa Santita," which has won more than its share of plaudits both locally and internationally.

Guillen and her husband, Johnny Delgado, attended the festival, which screened over 30 feature films and documentaries from Asian countries like Afghanistan, Burma, China, Cambodia, Korea, Japan, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Malaysia, Pakistan, Thailand and Tibet.

Aside from the festival screenings, there was a panel discussion on the

relationship between reality and fiction, in collaboration with the UNHCR—United Nations High Commissions for Refugees.

A new event was the section dedicated to Cinema and Literature, with the participation of acclaimed Bengalese writer and Nonino Award winner **Mahasweta Deri**.

The festival closes with the conferment of three prizes—the City of Rome award to the best Italian film in 2005, the Best Documentary award and the Best Audience award.

The festival's director, **Italo Spinelli**, invited Laurice and Johnny to personally introduce "Santa Santita" at its film fest screening, and to take part in round-table talks on the role of women in Philippine society at the Cara del Cinema at Villa Borghese.

Also invited to participate in the discussion was **Charito Basa**, the first Filipina to be awarded Cavaliere della Republica by President **Carlo Azeglio Ciampi**.

The festival is only on its sixth year, but it's already gained a loyal following because it screens Asian films that have yet to be shown in Rome.

We hope that after "Santa Santita," other Filipino movies will be invited for screening at the film fest, so more Europeans can savor the richness and diversity of Philippine cinema.

'Rome on HBO today

"ROME," the HBO channel's newest original drama series, has gotten praise from reviewers: USA Today describes the show is "a production that's as extravagant, enticing and chaotic as Rome itself."

The Washington Post adds, "It's ravishing and wickedly shocking a fest for the senses that includes generous portions of food for thought."

It took six years for HBO, the BBC and director **Michael Apted** to bring "Rome" to TV screens. Filmed at a cost of $120M, the epic series is about the city from the point of view of ordinary people caught up in the extraordinary events of the time.

The 12-part series has been praised by TV Guide as "a feast for the eyes, a ripping good story, and a shamelessly enjoyable historical romp." Catch it on HBO tonight.

'Serenade for the Arts'

THE MULTI-AWARDED UST Singers under **Fidel Calalang Jr.** will perform in a cocktail-concert, "Serenade for the Arts," on Nov. 29 at the Manila Polo Club. Proceeds will go to the scholarship fund of the Sunico Foundation for the Arts and Technology. Call 7243950 or 7314022.

SPLASH CORPORATION
Splash Care P.O. Box 1126 Q.C. Central P.O. e-mail: splashcare@splashcorp.com

E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph

Business Features Editor **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

Sunday BIZ

Focusing on consumers pays off

WINSTON Lim

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

ABENSON founder Wilson Lim

WINSTON LIM JOKINGLY SAYS that he and his five siblings started working for the family as soon as they were "potty-trained."

But unlike other Chinese-Filipino families, the Lim children were asked to first work outside the family business after college and pursue postgraduate studies.

What came out was a next generation of Lims that has forged a diverse customer-oriented enterprise that adapts to changes and practices the art of soft-selling.

Winston's father, Wilson, set up Abenson Inc. 35 years ago. From the first shop in Unimart at the Greenhills Shopping Center, Abenson has grown to become the largest appliance center in the country with 72 branches.

The name Abenson means 'son of Benito.' Benito is Winston's grandfather who set up Automatic Centre, also one of the country's biggest appliance traders.

Winston's father worked for Automatic for a year, then left to set up his own company.

On the other hand, Wilson's brother, Samie, put up Blim's that also also focuses on home furnishings.

Winston says his father and grandfather still have regular dinners together to discuss business. His grandfather is still very much involved in the business.

Winston, who worked for Nissan Philippines and has a master's degree in Business Management from the Asian Institute of Management, says his father was inspired to expand the business by what he saw on travels abroad.

During Wilson's honeymoon in Europe, "he was inspired to run more stores."

One of the early realizations of Wilson was the need to professionalize the appliance trading business.

He did well in this area by investing in the training of his sales people with his suppliers.

This resulted in diverse businesses under the Benison group of companies that are all focused on customers.

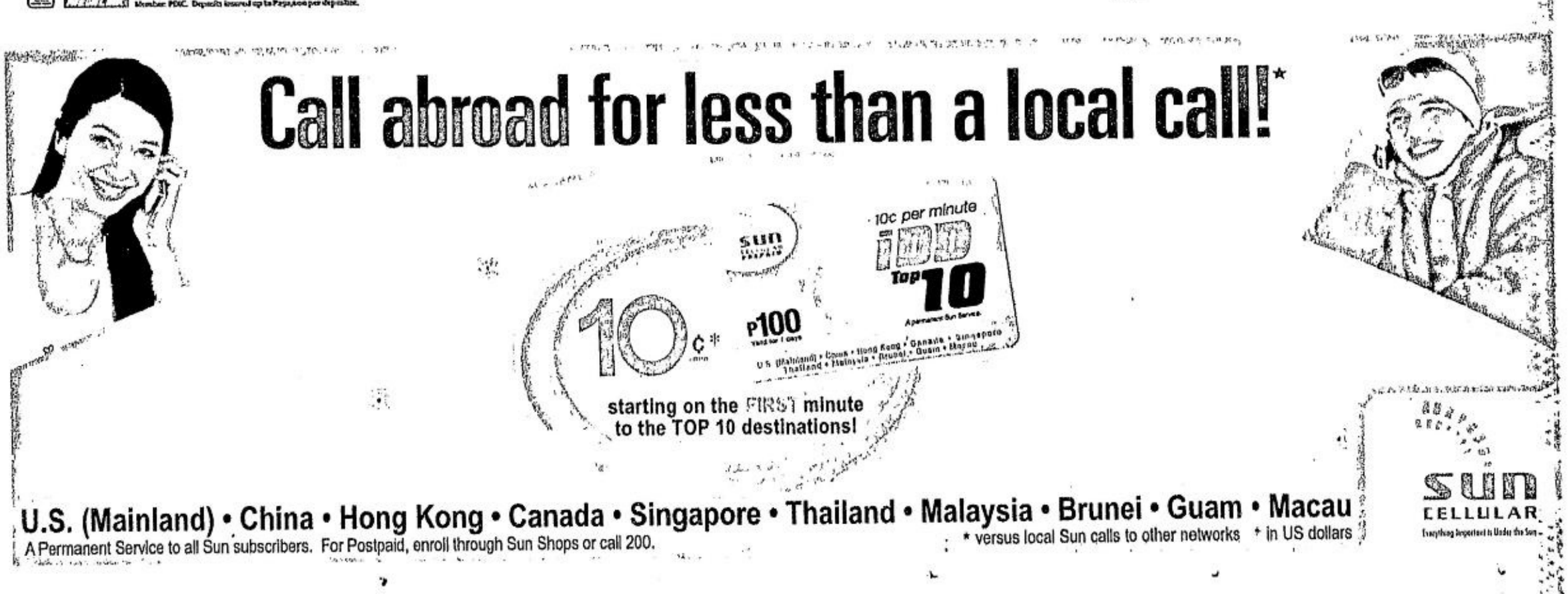
The group has expanded to consumer electronics under Electroworld; home furnishings under its Home Plus; supermarkets and malls under Walter Mart. It is also into services and opened Avant in Greenbelt, a shop selling the latest gadgets.

Winston, who is in charge of business development, says the Filipino customer has changed dramatically over the years.

"Filipinos are now very sophisticated. The Manila buyer looks at the Net for the products, the OFWs (overseas Filipino workers) are exposed to different brands and the services abroad which they look for here. This ups the bar," he says.

He says the group succeeded in educating OFWs to just buy the appliances in the Philippines where they can avail themselves of after-sales services,

FOCUSING/ B2



Concierge.com, 5-star hotel experience, DHL's asset

By Sandra Garcia
Contributor

BUSINESS TRAVEL

CONCIERGE.COM, THE PREmiere site for travel information and online home of Conde Nast Traveler, was recently relaunched by CondeNet, the online arm of Conde Nast Publications.

The new and improved site provides users with original, inspirational travel content presented in a chic yet functional, user-friendly design. Unlike the other travel websites, the new Concierge.com helps the user find the perfect destination.

A guide book with a magazine-type format, the site helps users quickly find the best place to go to match their preferences and the best hotels, restaurants, and attractions in each destination.

The interactive nature of the site's "Destination Finder" also makes Concierge.com a compulsive browsing experience for the armchair traveler.

Concierge.com currently features the following:

Destination Guides: Featuring almost 200 comprehensive, original guides that offer everything from "where to go" to "what to avoid," including hotel and restaurant reviews, shopping and nightlife tips, and recommended itineraries.

Destination Finder: This unique, interactive tool makes researching vacation ideas a breeze. Country or continent? Best time to visit? Adventure, family, or culinary? One just has to enter his trip requirements to see a range of locations that satisfy his or her criteria.

Super Guides: Concierge's Super Guides to the world's major destinations feature a wealth of insider information, including personalized itineraries of international celebrities.

Integration with Conde Nast Traveler: The new Concierge.com is a model of how a magazine can extend its brand onto the web. The ever-popular "Gold List" and "Hot List" features are now fully searchable online, offering a whole new way to experience these signature pieces.

Travel Ideas: Concierge.com offers fun, informative articles geared towards discovering out-of-the-ordinary vacation ideas: The world's sexiest beaches, a culinary tour of Italy, action-packed itineraries in eight ski resorts.

"The travel industry has been completely transformed by the Internet," said Peter Frank, editor in chief, Concierge.com. "and, arguably, the Internet has been transformed by the travel industry. No other part of our lives has been so influenced by the Web than the way we travel.

The new Concierge.com builds upon the strengths of Conde Nast Traveler by incorporating interactive features and making the magazine's database searchable. In the end, it's about helping people make every trip the trip of a lifetime." *(Sources: CondeNet, 4Hoteliers)*

No five-star treat

When I was in the hotel industry, it was SOP for my staff to always give holders of gift certificates or guests who were staying with us on complimentary basis extra special attention. I was always of the belief that these guests must be important for them to have been extended such courtesies.

This was not the case for my writer-niece and another friend, who were recently invited by their *balikbayan* best friend to spend a night in the presidential suite of a luxury hotel (no, not at the Shangri-La) in Makati. Their best friend's Mom gave her a GC from the hotel for their overnight stay.

Being frequent travelers, the girls knew that they have to make advance hotel reservations, which they made three days prior to their stay.

What the girls thought was going to be an enjoyable five-sta. stay in a hotel presidential suite turned out to be a major disappointment. On the day they checked in, the key to the suite was nowhere to be found (electronic keys were used only for the regular rooms and suites).

The courteous Front Desk staff promised to provide them with the key. Meanwhile, housekeeping unlocked the room for the newly-arrived guests.

On their way out to dinner, the girls asked for the key and were informed that it will be ready upon their return.

When they came back a little before midnight, they approached the Front Desk for their key but lo and behold, there was a shift change and the new shift had no clue on the key arrangements.

Again, they had to be assisted by the housekeeping staff, who were already inside their suite when the girls got there (normally, housekeeping staff should wait for the guests outside the room/suite).

The girls claim that the suite was not well-maintained. It was musty and when they went to the kitchen to make coffee, the pot of the coffee maker still had water presumably from a previous guest's stay.

Their breakfast experience did not make up for the previous night's inconveniences and my niece felt compelled to share them through a letter to the hotel general manager.

His reply seemed like a form letter and in so many words made my niece feel that it wasn't kosher to complain as they stayed for free!

* * *

Northwest Airlines gives you yet another reason to fly Northwest with SmartPerks, a promotional tie up with PacSports, the exclusive distributor of Nike Golf in the Philippines.

All passengers purchasing round-trip tickets from Manila to the United States or Japan through Dec. 31, 2005 will automatically get discount certificates at participating PacSports outlets locally.

The discount certificate and boarding pass will have to be presented when getting the discount. *(For more information, please call 841-8800)*

* * *

For your business courier and shipping requirements, we recommend DHL.

Victor Manaligod, Key Accounts Manager and DHL's key asset, converted this writer from a disgruntled customer to a DHL die-hard with his "impossible is nothing" attitude and account handling. Call DHL at 811-7000. *(For feedback, please e-mail sandragracegarcia@gmail.com.)*

KING JAMES AUCTION CALENDAR

ON-SITE AUCTION

TRUCK ENGINES, SPARE PARTS & SCRAP METALS
REGISTRATION & VIEWING DATES : NOVEMBER 28 - 29, 2005, 9:00AM – 5:00PM
SITE ADDRESS : 2875 IBA, MEYCAUYAN, BULACAN
AUCTION DATE: NOVEMBER 30, 2005 (WED), 10:30AM
CONSISTING OF (36) ISUZU ENGINES, (21) FUSO ENGINES, (9) NISSAN ENGINES, (9)HINO ENGINES, VARIOUS (ISUZU, FUSO, CANTER) CABIN, TRUCK PARTS, (18) ENGINEBLOCK, ENGINE CUT CHASSIS, (163) TRANSMISSION VARIOUS MODELS, (105) DIFFERENTIAL CARRIER (211) FAN BLADE METAL & PLASTIC, (31) INJECTION PUMPS, (19) FLY WHEEL (ASSTD.), (23) HYDROVAC FUSO FIGHTER, (17) I-BEAM (ASSTD.), (165) PROPELLER PLATE, (54) STEERING PUMP, (26) WATER PUMP, (24) FLY WHEEL HOUSING, (41) PULLEY, OIL PUMP, PRESSURE PLATE, (88) SLACK ADJUSTER, (5) SUSPENSION ASSEMBLY, (47) AIR CLEANER, (40) AIR COMPRESSOR, (25) ALTERNATOR, CLUTCH BOOSTER, (31) CYLINDER HEAD, (746) LEAF SPRING, (30) ALUMINUM INTAKE, AND SCRAP METALS.
REFUNDABLE / CONSUMABLE DEPOSIT OF P 20,000.00

PULILAN AUCTION WAREHOUSE AUCTION
REGISTRATION & VIEWING DATES : DEC. 1, 2, 3, 2005, 9:00AM – 5:00PM
SITE ADDRESS : 333 OLD NATIONAL HIGHWAY, STO. CRISTO PULILAN, BULACAN
AUCTION DATE: DECEMBER 4, 2005 (SUN), 10:30AM
REFUNDABLE / CONSUMABLE DEPOSIT OF P 5,000.00

ON-SITE AUCTION
SCRAP METAL AUCTION
REGISTRATION & VIEWING DATES : DEC. 12 & 13, 2005, 9:00AM – 5:00PM
SITE ADDRESS : KING JAMES AUCTION • PHILIPPINE HEADQUARTERS 777 OLD NATIONAL HIGHWAY, STO. CRISTO, PULILAN, BULACAN
AUCTION DATE: DECEMBER 14, 2005 (WED), 10:30AM
REFUNDABLE / CONSUMABLE DEPOSIT OF P 20,000.00
FOR VIEWING SCHEDULE AND REGISTRATION CALL FOR INFO
721-3233, 723-3277, (0920)664-3333
email us at: kingjamesauction@yahoo.com
VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.kingjamesauction.c|b.net

CB RICHARD ELLIS PARTNERS WITH PHILIPS LIGHTING. CB Richard Ellis, one of the world's premier, full-service real estate services company and Philips Lighting, the leader in innovative lighting design and solutions, recently signed an agreement that will allow the former to put a premium on the development and management of their sites in the country by using Philips light sources that combine durability with energy efficiency and superior lighting. Photo shows Homer Macapagal (center), CBRE Asset Services director and Clifford Jison (right), channel manager of the Philips Professional Lighting Group, sealing their partnership with a handshake, while Clement Cu, general manager of Cocolight Trading, a Philips lighting distributor, looks on.

PNB ASSET MANAGEMENT GROUP
We manage for best value.

PUBLIC AUCTION

NOVEMBER 30, 2005 • WEDNESDAY • 2:00 PM • HOTEL CAMILA, J. Ariosa St., Pagadian City, Zamboanga del Sur

ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR

PAGADIAN

LOT 1 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 446 sqm. F.A.: 263 sqm.
Lot 8557 Corner Rt Lim & Sagun St., Balangasan Dist.
Minimum Bid Price : 1,870,000.00

LOT 2 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 299 sqm. F.A.: 76 sqm.
Lot 3-D-3 Subdivision Rd., Ballesteros Vill., Balangasan Dist.
Minimum Bid Price : 542,000.00

LOT 3 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 897 sqm. F.A.: 353 sqm.
3-E, 3-G, 3-H Subdivision Rd., Ballesteros Vill., Balangasan Dist.
Minimum Bid Price : 1,824,000.00

LOT 4 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 784 sqm.
Lot No. 9302 Rizal Ave., Balangasan Dist.
Minimum Bid Price : 3,293,000.00

LOT 5 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 400 sqm. F.A.: 102 sqm.
5821-C-2-C-1, Nat'l. H-Way. Balintawak
Minimum Bid Price : 380,000.00

LOT 6 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 3,323 sqm.
Lot No. 1-N Banali Rd., Banali
Minimum Bid Price : 1,059,000.00

LOT 7 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 492 sqm.
Lot F-13 Banali Rd., Banali
Minimum Bid Price : 327,000.00

LOT 8 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 662 sqm.
Lot No 1-B-7 Padep Rd., City Pilot School Site, Padep Rd., Dao
Minimum Bid Price : 440,000.00

LOT 9 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 319 sqm. F.A. 206 sqm.
Lot No. 9202 Along Alley, Sanson St., Gatas Dist.
Minimum Bid Price : 543,000.00

LOT 10 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 460 sqm. F.A.: 169 sqm.
Lot Nos F- 11 & F-12 Sto. Nino-Banali Rd., Lower Banali, Banali
Minimum Bid Price : 1,203,000.00

LOT 11 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 254 sqm.
Lot 3244-C Rizal Ave., Lumbia Dist.
Minimum Bid Price : 2,058,000.00

LOT 12 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 300 sqm. F.A.: 244 sqm.
Lot Nos. 2 & 3, Blk. 3, Greenland Bldg., Alta Tierra Subd., Napoleon
Minimum Bid Price : 1,021,000.00

LOT 13 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 753 sqm.
Lot D-2-C-3-B-3-B Juan Alano St., Santiago St.
Minimum Bid Price : 6,326,000.00

LOT 14 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 191 sqm. F.A.: 168 sqm.
Lot 3078-A Ariosa St., San Francisco Dist.
Minimum Bid Price : 1,451,000.00

LOT 15 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 857 sqm.
Lot 3354 Bonifacio Street Extension, San Jose Dist.
Minimum Bid Price : 729,000.00

LOT 16 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 865 sqm.
Lot 3355 Bonifacio Street Extension, San Jose Dist.
Minimum Bid Price : 736,000.00

LOT 17 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 868 sqm.
Lot 3356 Bonifacio Street Extension, San Jose Dist.
Minimum Bid Price : 738,000.00

LOT 18 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 865 sqm.
Lot 3357 Bonifacio Street Extension, San Jose Dist.
Minimum Bid Price : 736,000.00

LOT 19 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 568 sqm.
Lot 3358 Bonifacio Street Extension, San Jose Dist.
Minimum Bid Price : 387,000.00

LOT 20 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 665 sqm.
Lot 3359 Bonifacio Street Extension, San Jose Dist.
Minimum Bid Price : 566,000.00

LOT 21 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 609 sqm.
Lot 3349 Bonifacio Street Extension, San Jose Dist.
Minimum Bid Price : 415,000.00

LOT 22 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 708 sqm.
Lot 3348 Bonifacio Street Extension, San Jose Dist.
Minimum Bid Price : 602,000.00

LOT 23 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 854 sqm.
Lot 3367Pajares Ave., Caragay Subd., Pajares Ave., San Jose Dist.
Minimum Bid Price : 609,000.00

LOT 24 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 684 sqm.
Lot 3360 Bonifacio Extn., San Jose Dist.
Minimum Bid Price : 582,000.00

LOT 25 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 253 sqm. F.A.: 145 sqm.
Lot 9931 Salazar St., San Jose Dist.
Minimum Bid Price : 1,727,000.00

LOT 26 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 16,010 sqm.
Lot 17 Bonifacio St. Extension, San Jose Dist.
Minimum Bid Price : 3,759,000.00

LOT 27 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 1,070 sqm.
Lot 2722 Corner Bonifacio & Salazar Street, San Jose Dist.
Minimum Bid Price : 1,873,000.00

LOT 28 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 711 sqm. F.A.: 180 sqm.
Lot 2584-B Corner Broca & Aquino Street, San Jose Dist.
Minimum Bid Price : 1,434,000.00

LOT 29 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 995 sqm.
Lot No. 3216-A-6 Sabate St., San Jose Dist.
Minimum Bid Price : 1,418,000.00

LOT 30 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 225 sqm.
Lot D-2-C-3-B-6-D-2-B-1 Ramon Magsaysay St., San Pedro Dist
Minimum Bid Price : 1,013,000.00

LOT 31 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 485 sqm. F.A.: 454 sqm.
Lot No. 3291 Cor. Magsaysay Ave., & Bana St., San Pedro Dist.
Minimum Bid Price : 1,600,000.00

LOT 32 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 478 sqm. F.A.: 764 sqm.
Lot No. 3290 Cor. Magsaysay Ave., & Bana St., San Pedro Dist.
Minimum Bid Price : 1,767,000.00

LOT 33 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 1,225 sqm.
Lot Nos. D-2-C-3-B-6-E-2 Bana Compound, San Pedro Dist.
Minimum Bid Price : 1,960,000.00

LOT 34 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 2,149 sqm.
Lot No. D-2-C-3-B-7 Ramon Magsaysay Ave., San Pedro Dist.
Minimum Bid Price : 6,189,000.00

LOT 35 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 168 sqm.
12244 & D-2-C-3-B-3-A Juan Alano St., Santiago Dist.
Minimum Bid Price : 1,764,000.00

LOT 36 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 270 sqm. F.A.: 135 sqm.
Lot Nos. 21-B & 20 Pagadian Townsite Subd., Interior Portion Of Pajares Ave., Santiago Dist.
Minimum Bid Price : 416,000.00

LOT 37 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 262 sqm. F.A.: 110 sqm.
Lot 263 Datoc St., Sta. Lucia Dist.
Minimum Bid Price : 1,148,000.00

LOT 38 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 156 sqm.
Lot 963 Gatas Creek, Jamisola St. Ext., Sta. Lucia Dist.
Minimum Bid Price : 36,000.00

LOT 39 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 757 sqm.
Lot 3345 Ateno St. Extension, Sta. Maria Dist.
Minimum Bid Price : 772,000.00

LOT 40 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 314 sqm.
Lot No. 7-C Bana St., Zsmhs Site, Sta. Maria Dist.
Minimum Bid Price : 478,000.00

LOT 41 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 392 sqm. F.A.: 84 sqm.
Lot 2 Blk 4 Subdivision Rd., Purok Pagasa, Sta. Nino Dist
Minimum Bid Price : 873,000.00

LOT 42 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 1,070 sqm. F.A.: 203 sqm.
Lot 1-A-7 Rizal Ave., Nat'l. Highway, Tiguma
Minimum Bid Price : 1,846,000.00

LOT 43 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 594 sqm. F.A.: 96 sqm.
Lot No 10, Blk.1 Natl Hi-Way, Tuburan Dist.
Minimum Bid Price : 892,000.00

LOT 44 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 486 sqm. F.A.: 126 sqm.
Lot No. 67-F-2B & C Prk Lumboy, Tuburan Dist.
Minimum Bid Price : 297,000.00

LOT 45 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 600 sqm. F.A.: 335 sqm.
Lot No. 63-O-12 Pajares Subd., Tuburan Dist.
Minimum Bid Price : 2,907,000.00

TAMBULIG

LOT 46 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 453 sqm.
Lot 7950-B Municipal Rd., Happy Valley
Minimum Bid Price : 205,000.00

LOT 47 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 82,256 sqm.
8773 Lower Usogan
Minimum Bid Price : 432,000.00

LOT 48 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 881 sqm. F.A.: 206 sqm.
2035-E, Nat'l Highway, New Vill.
Minimum Bid Price : 235,000.00

SAN MIGUEL

LOT 49 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 775 sqm.
Lot No. 1 Blk. 30 Nat'l. Highway, Pob.
Minimum Bid Price : 156,000.00

RT LIM

LOT 50 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 701 sqm. F.A.: 130 sqm.
Lot 9432, Katipunan
Minimum Bid Price : 306,000.00

RAMON MAGSAYSAY

LOT 51 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 1,124 sqm.
Lot 1466-C Eastern Babongan
Minimum Bid Price : 42,000.00

LOT 52 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 742 sqm. F.A.: 156 sqm.
Lot 1466-D Eastern Babongan
Minimum Bid Price : 145,000.00

NAGA

LOT 53 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 1,900 sqm.
Lot 2861 & 2859 Aguinaldo
Minimum Bid Price : 122,000.00

MOLAVE

LOT 54 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 429 sqm. F.A.: 270 sqm.
Lot 6768 Gulingan St.
Minimum Bid Price : 1,089,000.00

LOT 55 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 231 sqm. F.A.: 55 sqm.
Lot 6963-A Rrow. Legarda St.
Minimum Bid Price : 164,000.00

LOT 56 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 260 sqm. F.A.: 84 sqm.
7893-A Maboni St.
Minimum Bid Price : 369,000.00

LOT 57 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 519 sqm. F.A.: 55 sqm.
7250, Jose Abad Santos St., Makugihon
Minimum Bid Price : 230,000.00

LOT 58 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 530 sqm. F.A.: 125 sqm.
Lot 6449 Sda Church Site, R.Magsaysay St., Brgy. Maluloy-On
Minimum Bid Price : 272,000.00

LOT 59 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 232 sqm. F.A.: 66 sqm.
6963-B Legarda St.
Minimum Bid Price : 136,000.00

SOMINOT/HAYO

LOT 60 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 1,500 sqm. F.A.: 857 sqm.
Lot 1 & Lot 2 Subdivision Rd., Bliss Site
Minimum Bid Price : 796,000.00

LOT 61 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 1,233 sqm.
Lot 10636-A Subdivision Rd., Bliss Site
Minimum Bid Price : 276,000.00

LOT 62 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 1,012 sqm. F.A.: 110 sqm.
12 Cabili St., Bo. Dao
Minimum Bid Price : 222,000.00

LOT 63 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 1,299 sqm. F.A.: 122 sqm.
Lot 17 Equivalent To Lot 13104 Cabili St., Dao
Minimum Bid Price : 639,000.00

LOT 64 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 600 sqm. F.A.: 148 sqm.
Lot 3244 Nat'l Highway, Pob
Minimum Bid Price : 472,000.00

LOT 65 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 599 sqm. F.A.: 70 sqm.
3972-H Salug Daku
Minimum Bid Price : 82,000.00

KUMALARANG

LOT 66 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 450 sqm. F.A.: 84 sqm.
Lot No. 181-B Dakula St.
Minimum Bid Price : 157,000.00

KABASALAN

LOT 67 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 296 sqm. F.A.: 63 sqm.
Lot No. 27, Brgy. Cainglet
Minimum Bid Price : 173,000.00

LOT 68 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 604 sqm.
Lot 11-K-14, Salip Yasin
Minimum Bid Price : 114,000.00

LOT 69 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 1,503 sqm. F.A.: 300 sqm.
Lot Nos. 2096-J & 2096-I, Goodyear Rd., Sta. Cruz
Minimum Bid Price : 1,432,000.00

LOT 70 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 1,130 sqm. F.A.: 176.50 sqm.
Lot Nos. 2096-II-4 & 2096-II-5 Goodyear Rd., Sta. Cruz
Minimum Bid Price : 1,217,000.00

DUMALINAO

LOT 71 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 454 sqm. F.A.: 153 sqm.
Lot No. 9065-H Paglaum
Minimum Bid Price : 828,000.00

LOT 72 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 320 sqm. F.A.: 110 sqm.
Lot No. 5434-K-3-11 Sumamban St., Paglaum
Minimum Bid Price : 243,000.00

BUUG

LOT 73 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 749 sqm.
Lot 872 Alley, Brgy. Pob., Back Of Buug Mun. Hall
Minimum Bid Price : 159,000.00

AURORA

LOT 74 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 162 sqm. F.A.: 81 sqm.
A-7 Prk. Bagong Lipunan Rd., Pob.
Minimum Bid Price : 119,000.00

LOT 75 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 297 sqm. F.A.: 137 sqm.
13783-A Municipal Rd., Public Market Site
Minimum Bid Price : 633,000.00

ALICIA

LOT 76 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 521 sqm.
Lot 203 Municipal Rd. Wharf Area, Pob.
Minimum Bid Price : 34,000.00

- GUARANTEED FINANCING-FIXED INTEREST UP TO 10YRS
- 10% DOWN PAYMENT FOR LOTS
- 25% DOWN PAYMENT FOR DEVELOPED PROPERTIES
- DEPOSIT PHP 25,000.00 CASH, MANAGER'S CHECK (NO DEPOSIT NO PARTICIPATION)
- FOR INSTALLMENT BUYERS PLS. BRING PROOF OF INCOME (ITR, CERT. OF EMPLOYMENT, BANK STATEMENT, ETC.)

Please Call AMG-PNB Inquiry Desk:
TEL NOs: (02) 832-2562 | (02) 526-3131
LOCALS: (VANESA) 4538 | (0918) 415-0999 • (VON) 7212 | (0922) 426-8506 (ROSS) 4537 | (0920) 602-6933 • (ASHLEY) 4539 | (0916) 579-5478 (IRWIN) (0916) 4106281 | (088) 8575545 • (BONG) (0922) 806-2326

phonebanking PNB 573-8888
www.pnb.com.ph

PROPERTIES FOR SALE ARE ON AN "AS IS WHERE IS" BASIS. PROPERTIES AND PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. PLEASE CONFIRM ATTENDANCE TO ENSURE SEATS AND PARKING.

Focusing on...

From page B1

instead of buying from abroad like they used to.

Winston adds that Abenson decided years back that they would only carry branded appliances.

The changes in buying behavior likewise prompted Abenson to change the look of the shops.

He says customers today want to visualize how an appliance will look like outside the store setting and in their homes.

"We want to give solutions to customers. We have to know how to make them experience the appliance," Winston says.

He adds that the customers want their sales people to be able to explain the features of an appliance and say whether they can use it with existing gadgets.

"They want more personalized service."

The best sellers these days are MP3 players and digital cameras. Flat TVs and big screen ones are also selling well.

But, he says overall sales continue to be flat.

"We have not reached the peak (of sales) during the pre-crisis (of 1997)," Winston says.

The purchasing power of the Filipinos, he says, remains very limited.

Walter Mart, named after the youngest sibling, has been quietly expanding and now has nine community centers.

Its strength lies outside Metro Manila where the community mall has become part of the local landscape, particularly in Cavite and Laguna. It recently expanded to Gapan in Nueva Ecija and Plaridel in Bulacan.

Despite the flat market, the Benison group will continue its expansion but will take a conservative approach.

Its vision is to "bring a higher quality of life for our customers in all our retail formats."

Its motto is "Happy customers, great company, great people."

Winston is proud that the group's people are among the best in the industry and that the firm is able to maintain good relations with most of its 3,000 employees.

He says that when he and the family go abroad, sales people from some of the shops would often greet them and tell them they used to work for Abenson group.

Perhaps someday, it will not just be the former employees but Abenson shops that will be in malls abroad.

Dropout's imagination is fired by 'kalan'

By Peter La. Julian
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BANGAR, LA UNION—WITH liquefied petroleum gas costing as much as P530 per 11-kg. tank, this novelty stove that can be fired with anything that burns—wood, paper, dried dung and leaves, corn cobs, coco shells—should be a big economic help to housewives.

In fact, the stove has already become a fixture in several homes nationwide since a prototype was invented in the 1980s.

Narciso Mosuela, 72, an entrepreneur-inventor here, calls his innovation "superkalan," a modified version of the Ilocano *dalikan* (*kalan* or firewood clay stove) that is still used in the countryside.

But this kitchenware is not as messy as the age-old cooking gadget with all the smoke and soot. The body is made of aluminum alloy, with a cast iron heat intensifier; it can be as clean and handy as the LPG-fired cooking range.

Mosuela, or Tata Ciso as he is known here, says he got the idea of the superkalan when he was stranded during a storm in the early 1970s in Quezon province.

In the hut where he took shelter, an old woman was cooking supper in a kalan. Now and then she would enkindle the fire in the stove by blowing into a lead pipe.

It was a tiresome process with her panting and shedding tears when smoke got into her eyes, Mosuela, who only got to sixth grade, says.

Mosuela, who also invented a functional rice thresher and other kitchen gadgets, vowed to make a stove that was more efficient and more convenient for the ordinary housewife. Thus was born the prototype for the superkalan.

It was 1982 when the first of "several thousands" of his stoves came off his little factory in that decade. Philex Mines Co. in Tuba, Benguet, bought more than 1,000 superkalan units for its miners. The mining firm was the biggest single buyer of his practical invention.

As a token of gratitude to the old woman who inspired him, Mosuela went back to Quezon and gave her one superkalan to replace her cumbersome kalan.

THE KALAN is modified version of the Ilocano "dalikan" that is still used in the countryside. PHOTOS BY PETER LA. JULIAN

But the superkalan had a short life span—it was made of iron that easily rusted. Once the rust peeled off, the stove would deteriorate.

So Mosuela, who came from a poverty-stricken family and who started making practical innovations since he was a kid, came out several months later with a rustproof, unbreakable superkalan that can last for at least 10 years.

He not only improved the first invention but also added more features—chimney for the smoke and funnel-like bottom where ashes are collected and disposed off neatly.

For his invention, the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations under its regional wood energy program bestowed on him in 1987 the "best design award" for Third World country category.

It was the first of several awards and citations that the school dropout received from institutions and governments. In 2003, Mosuela was among the country's nominees to the International Search for Outstanding Entrepreneur sponsored by Ernst and Young Global Program.

An award that elated him most was that given him in 2003 by the Japan Institute of Invention Innovations. It was for a prototype called "Tiger Grass Depollinator" that was patterned after a design made by his granddaughter Hannah, 14, for her class project at the Regional Science High School in Bangar.

The prototype was an entry to the International Exhibition for Young Inventors Future Creation that year. His granddaughter won an "excellence award" that she personally received in Tokyo.

The gadget is now being used by broom makers in extracting the flowers of the tiger grass, the raw materials of the popular Baguio brooms.

Not every one knows but the

SUPERKALAN and its inventor, Narciso Mosuela,72

mini rice threshers now being used by East Timor farmers came from Mosuela's Natomo Manufacturing plant here.

Some 150 units of the rice threshers, a prototype of which antedated the superkalan, were exported to that country in 2002.

Life in the village where Tata Ciso was born was difficult and hard. The produce from the small plot of land that his father cultivated was barely enough for the family.

The young Ciso decided not to follow the footsteps of his father. He wanted to find his pot of gold in Manila so off he went and had himself hired as houseboy and gardener of an American family, the MacDonalds, who then owned a car company called Mantrade.

It started his "career" as inventor-entrepreneur. The elder MacDonald discovered that Mosuela had a sort of "creative juice," a knack for things mechanical and technical. The American had him enrolled in vocational courses—practical electricity and automotive technology.

During this time, Mosuela was introduced to and became a voracious reader of Popular Mechanics and other science and invention magazines.

After graduating from the short courses, he was hired in the engineering department of Ford Philippines.

But the "creative juice" was restless. He left the company and put up his own little shop where he could realize his dreams as an inventor.

The rest, as they say, is history.

Mosuela's small manufacturing plant sits on a 635-sq.m. lot, which used to be a rice farm, along the village road here. There are rice fields around, but Mosuela owns no *kinelleng* (small but productive fields typical in the Ilocos region) here.

It is here that Natomo (from the first two letters of the nickname of Mosuela's son Renato and the surname Mosuela) manufactures the superkalan, agricultural machineries, tricycle accessories and other metal products.

But the superkalan, which has been enjoying brisk sales since the price spirals of electricity and LPG as main sources of heat for cooking, is Mosuela's main product line.

"We can finish at least 20 units of superkalan daily or 140 units per week," Danilo, another Mosuela son, tells the INQUIRER. Danilo is Natomo's marketing manager while Renato is in charge of production.

There are 12 regular employees of the plant but during the peak season—August to October—it hires additional contract workers.

The superkalan is sold as soon as it goes out of the assembly line, according to Danilo, an accounting graduate. At the time of the INQUIRER's visit, Danilo received a cell phone call from a buyer in Laguna, who placed an order for 12 superkalan units.

In a section of the building housing the production area, there are stacks of superkalan packed in cartoons ready for shipment to would-be-buyers.

"We can deliver the unit anywhere in the Philippines," Danilo says, adding that the freight charge, which is minimal, is paid by the buyer.

Factory price of the superkalan is P2,300 per unit, including the chimney. With complete accessories, it costs P4,000.

"It is an investment but it saves the housewife a lot of money," Tata Ciso said in Ilocano.

Mosuela has gone a long way, achieving what he had wanted for himself and his family. (He has three other children, all professionals like Danilo and Renato). At his age, he should take it easy and enjoy the fruits of his labor.

But his mind is still a workshop of ideas, always looking for innovations especially those that would help the common man.

At present, he is making a design for a model spray booth that the Department of Science and Technology in San Fernando City has requested him to invent.

A spray booth is an enclosed structure where "spray painting" of metal products would be done. This is needed, he said, to prevent the poisonous chemicals of paint from being released to the environment during spray painting jobs.

Take advantage of
PSBank's HIGH $ RATES

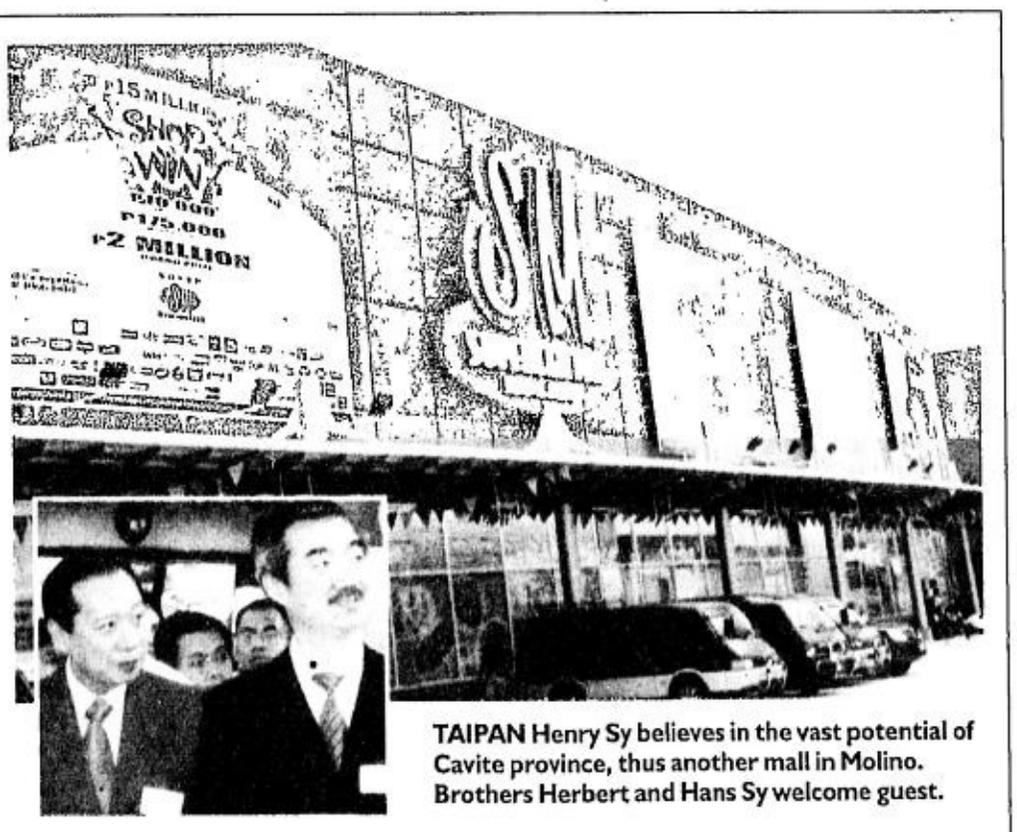
	$1,000 to 9,999	$10,000 to 49,999	$50,000 to 99,999	$100,000 and up
1 month	3.0000%	3.1250%	3.2500%	3.3750%
2 months	3.1250%	3.2500%	3.3750%	3.4375%
3 months	3.2500%	3.3750%	3.4375%	3.5000%
6 months	3.3750%	3.4375%	3.5000%	3.6250%
12 months	3.4375%	3.5000%	3.6250%	3.7500%

*Quoted rates are subject to change without prior notice.
Rates are on per annum basis and subject to 7.5% withholding tax

Open an account now at any PSBank branch nationwide!

PSBank US Dollar TIME DEPOSIT

Text PSBANK USTD <your name> <your landline no.> <your email address> then send to 2327 for Globe or 0917-8902327 for non-Globe users.
Member of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation. Maximum deposit insurance for each depositor P250,000



TAIPAN Henry Sy believes in the vast potential of Cavite province, thus another mall in Molino. Brothers Herbert and Hans Sy welcome guest.

Why three malls in Cavite?

WHEN SM PRIME RECENTLY OPENED ITS 22nd supermall in Molino, people wondered why the largest mall owner in the country set up three in the same province.

But taipan Henry Sy's success cannot be questioned and he must have seen the wisdom of having three malls and its potentials.

The newly opened SM Supercenter Molino is the third SM mall in Cavite after SM City Bacoor (in 1997) and SM City Dasmarinas (in 2004). SM's presence in three strategic areas reinforces the province's growth and market potentials. This rapidly developing province has become a favored location of many industrial and commercial businesses, as well as residential subdivisions.

Cavite has 21 industrial parks spread around 20 municipalities, creating pockets of economic activities in the areas they are located. Locator companies, some of the biggest names in the world, employ more than a hundred thousand skilled workers. Intel, for example, opened a 20-ha assembly plant for its Pentium processors at Gateway Business Park in General Trias, one of the most impressive industrials parks in Asia.

In addition, a total of 216 companies are located in the 27-ha Cavite Export Processing Zone. These have provided a vast number of jobs, and helped raise standards of living.

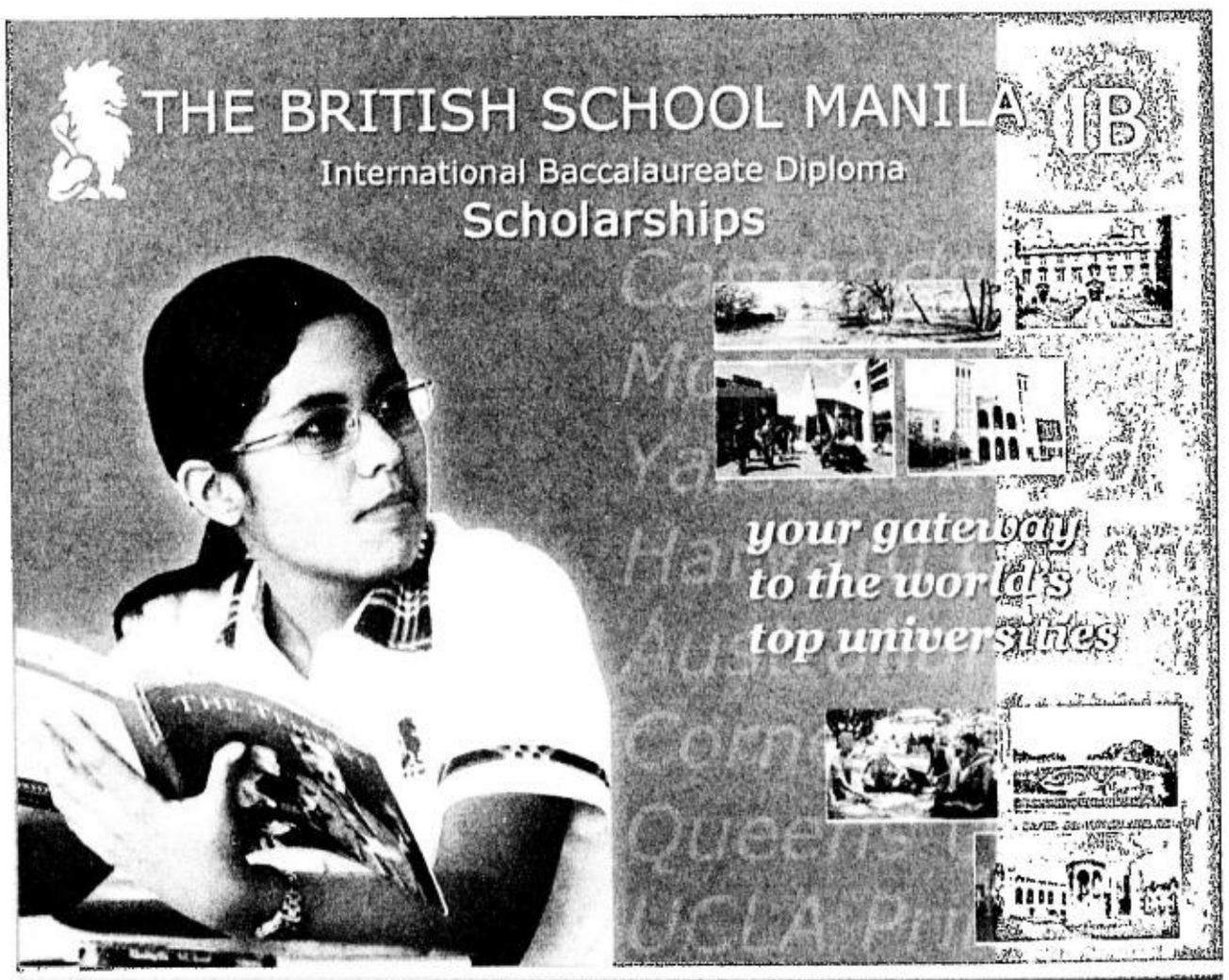
This potential was realized when the mall opened its doors to the public last week, with record crowds filling the mall as soon as SM Prime Holdings President Hans T. Sy and SM Supermarket SVP for Marketing Herbert Sy welcomed the first wave of customers during opening day.

The new two story 50,000-sq.m. mall will serve customers in the second most populous municipality in the province, which has the highest population density.

Located on a 4.8-ha property in Barangay Molino, Bacoor, Cavite, the new mall has Super SM Hypermarket as its major anchor. Hypermarkets are basically of European origin and sell food as well as non-food items like clothes, housewares furniture and beauty products.

The new mall also has four state of the art cinemas as well as 627 parking spaces for cars and 85 for motorcycles.

SM Supercenter Molino's design team included Chucawal de Weger, project architect and design consultant; Haskonig Philippines, project manager and DOY Konstrukt, general contractor. It is located along Molino Road.



E-mail: pr_pep@inquirer.com.ph
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Aries Espinosa

Country's most innovative agribusiness reaps awards

GOOD HARVEST, AN AGRICULTURAL company which mixes the principles of contract mango farming with that of an innovative multi - model marketing plan and a sustainable environmental campaign, has just recently received a total of eight awards and commendations coming from various industry and consumer groups, bringing its total to 36 in the last three years.

Two of their most notable awards are the most coveted Consumer Union of the Philippines (CUP) Award for Most Outstanding Agro-Business company and the Most Outstanding Globally Standardized Mango Orchard. The CUP, the country's premier consumer guardian and a partner of the Department of Trade and Industry and counts House Speaker Jose de Venecia as Chairman of its council with president lawyer Quirino Marquinez, is one of the most respected consumer union in the country and bestows its award on a select few companies which have shown remarkable innovation and high standard of excellence on their business or product for the benefit of consumers all over the country.

Good Harvest's award winning and sprawling orchard is located at the heart of the Bataan Peninsula in the municipality of Bagac (it's land partner is the DENR). Beyond being an orchard dedicated to a global standard industrial scale mango farming, Good Harvest has also added to its farm, resort-type amenities such as their Natural Spring Water swimming pools, Picnic Grove with Man-made waterfalls, nipa hut rest areas, horse stables and riding trails, and a camp site - clearly a first in the mango orcharding industry. It also will be adding soon a fishing lagoon, children's nature village and its own beach resort to compliment what are already in place.

Good Harvest vice president Henry Reyes, in an interview said that, "We are truly very honored to have received these awards. To us, it is a validation of the company's different business models market acceptability and all the hard work and sacrifices we have put in through the years of building not just a lucrative enterprise for every Filipino, but also a haven for a sustainable and profitable reforestation program. Mango trees live and can be harvested for more than a hundred years, and that just means that what we have started here will benefit many more generations to come. Our objective of planting and nurturing more than one million mango trees and exporting its produce redound to numerous socio-economic and environmental benefits. One million mango trees planted and producing export quality fruits can create 100,000 new jobs in the countryside and thousands of livelihood opportunities and downstream economies, provide as much as P20 billion worth of investments in the agricultural sector (agribusiness for exports), effectively reforest 10,000 hectares of land with export variety mango trees and other forest trees, and contribute over US$ 500M worth of export earnings per year in the future."

LG EQUIPS PAL TERMINAL 2 WITH PLASMA TVS

LG Electronics, the leading plasma TV manufacturer in the Philippines has equipped the NAIA Centennial Terminal 2 with brand new Plasma TV units. LG installed two units at the PAL International Lounge - one at the extension of the VIP Mabuhay Lounge and another one at the very exclusive VIP area where foreign dignitaries and guests are welcomed. Another LG Plasma TV was installed at the PAL Domestic 'Mabuhay Lounge' to provide foreign and local guests entertainment and information. Photo shows LG Electronics marketing communications and PR manager Roe Quiambao (extreme left) and LG Electronics Phils CEO Jeff Hong (extreme right) with officers from PAL at the Mabuhay Lounge.

BPI FAMILY SAVINGS BANK VALUES ITS ELITE BROKERS CIRCLE

One of the privileges enjoyed by the members of BPI Family Savings Bank's Elite Brokers Circle is an exclusive lunch with BPI Family Savings Bank president Alfonso L. Salcedo, Jr. Referred to as the President's Treat, top brokers Carolyn Untalan, Lizbeth del Rosario, Nida Unas, Jo Gaston, Noelle Pama, Charles Go and Vir Villagracia enjoyed a sumptuous Italian lunch recently at the Mi Piace restaurant in The Peninsula Manila Hotel. The valued brokers were likewise presented with gift items. Shown in photo are (seated from left): top brokers Carolyn Untalan, Lizbeth Del Rosario, Nida Unas, Jo Gaston, BPI Family Savings Bank president Alfonso Salcedo Jr., Noelle Pama, Charles Go and Vir Villagracio; (standing from left): SVP Albert Pascual, SVP Lourdes Claravall and AVP Ruel Magtoto.

China Bank enters e-Banking realm

CHINA BANKING CORP (CHINA BANK) IS taking banking experience to another level as it launches China Bank Online on its 85th anniversary celebration.

China Bank Online is China Bank's Internet and mobile banking platform accessible through URL: www.chinabank.ph. It completes the suite of electronic channels - TellerCard for ATM banking, TellerPhone for phone banking and now the Internet and mobile banking.

"The launch of China Bank Online spells the entry of a powerful and highly functional banking tool. It is our answer to the changing banking landscape and at the same time, our way of enhancing our banking partnership with our clients," executive VP and COO Ricardo R. Chua said.

Delivered through the e-Banking platform of Infosys, a world-leading technology provider, China Bank Online offers secure and easy-to-navigate online banking experience. China Bank Online is designed with superior features for both individual and corporate clients. It is the only e-banking platform that can send a wide range of alerts through an accountholder's e-mail or mobile phone for critical and up-to-the-minute updates about his account or transactions, allowing him to be on top of his finances wherever he is, for free. Its enhanced corporate module, meanwhile, enables check-writing as well as check warehousing services, among others. All these are delivered through simple user interface for convenience. The mobile banking module, on the other hand, is flexible and is open to all subscribers of Globe, Smart and Sun Cellular. With China Bank Online, Internet and mobile phone users can now access their China Bank accounts and perform a wide suite of banking transactions.

China Bank is one of the country's leading universal banks with more than 140 branches serving you with longer banking hours (9 a.m. to 4 p.m.) and over 200 ATMs nationwide. Visit www.chinabank.ph for more information.

Adult vaccination made more accessible

A PERVADING CONCERN ABOUT THE lack of knowledge on the importance of adult vaccination has moved medical institutions like the Centralle Medical Diagnostics and Polyclinic Inc to open an adult vaccination center. This latest initiative has ignited hopes of improving disease prevention through adult vaccination at least in areas covered by the vicinity of Centralle's medical centers in Calookan and Bulacan.

Centralle Medical Director Dr. Irene Ching expressed optimism on the opening of its adult vaccination center. She says that it helps them meet their goal of providing complete, quality, and affordable medical service to as many people as possible. Centralle is known to offer products and services that are patient-friendly cost-wise - about 50 percent lower than standard hospital rates.

"Our goal is to build a center that is truly complete with all types of hospital products and services - diagnostics, pharmaceutical, and laboratory. This way, we can fulfill our mission of putting up a chain of centers that will serve various segments of the community," announced Ching. "We continue to look for ways to make this happen, and we believe that adult vaccination is just one of the main public concerns that need immediate attention. This will also boost our reputation not only for complete medical services, but for accessible, affordable, quality, and reliable service as well."

Dr. Jennie Wong, pediatrician and adult vaccination center project director, reiterated the necessity of informing adults about their vaccination needs. She said records indicate that adults are not aware that they can be the main sources of illness. "A lot of grownups don't know that they are carriers of vaccine-preventable diseases like hepatitis B, so they are actually putting other people's health at risk if they don't have themselves immunized," Wong states. "Proper nutrition, proper health care, and preventive measures like vaccination can help protect the public and reduce the number of carriers and risk to non-carriers."

Now on its fourth year of service, Centralle first opened its Caloocan center along MH Del Pilar Street in July 2001. Another center opened soon after in Balagtas, Bulacan, and construction of its Camarin, Novaliches, Caloocan City center is prepping up for operations expected by this month. For more information about adult vaccination, call Centralle Caloocan at 366-9068 or 330-1596, or Centralle Bulacan at (044)-6935488.

Republic of the Philippines
Office of the President
Metro Manila Development Authority
PASIG RIVER REHABILITATION COMMISSION

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Project : Pasig River Environmental Management and Rehabilitation Sector Development Program (PAREMAR)

Loan No. : Asian Development Bank (ADB) Loan No. 1746-PHI

Description of Works: **Construction and Development of a Linear Park at Punta-Sta. Ana (Cardinal Sin Village) and a Linear Park and Revetment Wall at Parcel along Pasig River**

1. The Government of the Philippines (GOP) has received a loan from the ADB toward the cost of PAREMAR and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan, together with the GOP counterpart funds, to payments under the Contracts for Punta-Sta. Ana URA Project: Linear/Community Park Component and Parcel Linear Park Project.
2. The Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC) as the executing agency now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the following contract package:

Contract Package	Construction and Development of the Punta Sta. Ana URA Project: Linear Park Component	Construction and Development of the Parcel Linear Park w/ Revetment Wall
Contract No.	URA-MLA-02B	EPA-LPP-32
Area	1,269.00 sq.m.	913.78 sq.m.
Location	Cardinal Sin Village, Punta-Sta. Ana, Manila	Parcel, Sta. Mesa, Manila
Contract Duration	150 Calendar Days	180 Calendar Days
Project Description	Construction and development of linear park/ promenade which includes the following items of work: General Requirements, Demolition Works, Site Work/Earthworks, Site Improvement, Paving/ Surfacing, Site Furniture, Electrical, Drainage and Landscaping/ Soltscape	Construction and development of a revetment wall and a linear park / promenade which includes the following items of work: General Requirements, Site Work / Earthworks, Site Improvement, Paving / Surfacing, Site Furniture, Electrical and Landscaping/ Soltscape

3. Interested Bidders shall secure the Bid Documents and submit bids as follows:

Activity		Date	Time	Venue	Remarks
Securing of (a) Eligibility Checklist or (b) submission of Letter of Intent and purchase of complete set of Bid Documents upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php 12,500.00		From Dec. 2 to 9, 2005	9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.	PRRC 2F, MWSS Engineering Bldg. Katipunan Road, Old Balara, Quezon City	Eligibility checklist is free of charge
Securing of additional eligibility information (if any) and inspection of Bidding Documents		From Dec. 2 to 9, 2005	9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.		For those who secured only the Eligibility Checklist
Site Inspection	Punta-Sta. Ana Linear Park	Dec. 14, 2005	10:00 a.m.	Punta-Sta. Ana (Cardinal Sin Village)	
	Parcel Linear Park	Dec. 15, 2005	10:00 a.m.	Parcel, Sta. Mesa Manila	
Pre-Bid Conference	Punta-Sta. Ana Linear Park	Dec. 14, 2005	2:00 p.m.	Punta-Sta. Ana (Cardinal Sin Village	Right after the Site Inspection
	Parcel Linear Park	Dec. 15, 2005	2:00 p.m.	PRRC (same address)	Right after the Site Inspection
Deadline for Submission	Punta-Sta. Ana Linear Park	Jan. 4, 2006	10:00 a.m.	PRRC (same address)	Late bids (bids submitted after 10 AM) shall not be accepted
	Parcel Linear Park	Jan. 5, 2006	10:00 a.m.		
Opening of Bids	Punta-Sta. Ana Linear Park	Jan 4, 2006	10:00 a.m.	PRRC (same address)	Bids shall be opened in the presence of the bidders
	Parcel Linear Park	Jan. 5, 2006	10:00 a.m.		

4. The City of Manila shall be the implementing agency of the Contract.
5. Bidding (Eligibility Check/Prequalification, Bid Evaluation and Award of Contract) shall be conducted on the basis of local competitive bidding among interested Bidders from ADB eligible source countries as defined under the *"Guidelines for Procurement by the Asian Development Bank and its Borrowers"* pursuant to the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. No. 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," to the extent it is consistent with Asian Development Bank's procedures.
6. PRRC-IABAC reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at anytime prior to Contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) BINGLE H.B. GUTIERREZ
Executive Director

Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission
2F, MWSS Engineering Bldg., Katipunan Road, Old Balara, Quezon City 1105
Tel. Nos. 433-3444 and 433-344
Email Address: prrc@tri-isys.com
Fax No. 926-52-34

(PDI – Nov. 27, 2005)

Government of Canada / Embassy of Canada — Gouvernement du Canada / Ambassade du Canada

JOB OPPORTUNITY

SENIOR PROGRAM OFFICER - Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)

Job Responsibility. Under the general direction of the Head of CIDA section, assists in the identification and development of Canadian International Development Agency Programs (CIDA); serves as lead officer in the design management and administration of selected CIDA projects; assists in the implementation of programs/projects funded by CIDA's Partnership Branch, and the SE Asia Regional Programs; coordinates the activities of visiting program and project missions; and, performs other duties as required.

Essential Qualifications. College/University degree in Economics, Social Sciences or other development related disciplines; experience in development program/project design and management with Philippine government agencies, other donors, civil society, private sector or other developmental practitioners; experience in the general programming areas of legal and judicial reform, civil society engagement in peacebuilding and development, policy reform and human rights would be an asset; excellent analytical and writing skills; high level of proficiency in the use of English and Tagalog (written and oral).

Desirable Qualifications. Oral and written communication skills in French; Oral and written communication skills in other local dialects; Working knowledge of various computer applications e.g. Windows XP, Internet/Intranet.

Rated Elements. Knowledge of socio-politico economic situation and development challenges of the Philippines, with a focus on Mindanao; knowledge of civil society structures and partners in the Philippines and an existing network of such partners is an asset.

Conditions of Employment. The successful candidate must pass an enhanced reliability and security checks, plus a medical exam and must accept the responsibilities required in the job.

Please send your applications in writing to:
PERSONNEL OFFICER
Embassy of Canada
Basement 4 RCBC Plaza,
6819 Ayala Avenue Makati City
RE: SENIOR PROGRAM OFFICER/CIDA
* Applications must be received no later than Wednesday, December 7, 2005.

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT
Bids & Awards Committee

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

The KALAHI-CIDSS is a community-driven development (CDD) Project funded by World Bank where decision-making and affirmative action resides in the community. Since its inception in 2003 and up to the present, it now operates in 42 poorest provinces of the country. As part of its management strategy as well as commitment in the Loan Agreement, the KALAHI-CIDSS Project will undergo a Mid-Term Review (MTR) by the end of its third year or halfway its project life of six years. The Mid-Term Review is targeted to start in January of 2006. On the basis of the Project Implementation Plan, a Mid-Term Evaluation of the KALAHI-CIDSS Project will be undertaken.

To further sharpen the focus of the MTR, DSWD and the World Bank (WB) engages in discussions and workshops. In general terms, both DSWD and WB view the MTR as a joint review activity. The MTR is also viewed as a complex undertaking requiring the review of numerous project components using different perspectives. In order to facilitate the review process, DSWD and World Bank wish to seek the services of an Evaluation Consultant specifically for the KALAHI-CIDSS Mid-Term Review.

The MTR Consultant must be a respectable consulting firm with proven capability to perform project and program evaluation particularly in the area of social development programs involving community participation. Specifically, the consultancy firm shall have a track record of undertaking evaluation of social development projects on a national scale; must have the organizational capability and resources to carry out the requirement of the Terms of Reference as indicated by its general qualifications and competence; and have knowledge and understanding of procurement procedures of the World Bank and the Government.

The MTR Consultant shall facilitate consultative workshops between DSWD, WB and other stakeholders. In addition, the MTR Consultant shall review project documents and secondary data to aid in the development of the framework and methodology of the MTR. If needed, the MTR Consultant shall undertake field visits to rapidly gather or validate data. On the basis of the discussion and workshops and review of documents, the MTR Consultant shall develop a common framework, approach and methodology of the MTR. The framework and approach should faithfully capture the output of the consultative workshops. The MTR Consultant shall report to the KALAHI-CIDSS National Project Director and National Project Manager.

Interested Firms may submit their **Expression of Interest, Company Profile and Curriculum Vitae of the technical personnel of the consulting firm** to the **Bids & Awards Committee Secretariat** at 2nd floor, DSWD, Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills, Quezon City with telephone number 951-71-16 until **December 2, 2005 at 5:00 pm.**

(SGD.) **ALICIA R. BALA**
Undersecretary and Chairperson, BAC

(PDI-Nov. 27, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT
Bids & Awards Committee

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

In February 2005, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) partnered with Agencia Espanola Cooperacion International (AECI) to replicate the "16-step" social technology of the KALAHI-CIDSS Project in various municipalities in Regions III, V, and CARAGA. Now in its 9th month, most PODER communities have begun implementation of their sub-projects.

The Audio Visual Presentation has proven effective in communicating information in a captivating manner. An AVP on basic PODER information and PODER success stories will orient Project stakeholder audiences effectively and concisely. In this regard, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) through its Bids and Awards Committee is now hiring the services of an Audio Visual Presentation Production Consultant to facilitate the orientation of DSWD staff, AECI staff, legislators, government agencies, corporations, non-government organizations, and all interested parties on basic Project information and project success stories through the utilization of the AVP.

The consulting firm must have five (5) years experience in audio-visual presentation production; must have experience in music video production; and must have previous community development themed projects. In this respect, the PODER Project shall provide the AVP concept and it will also provide the song for the KALAHI-CIDSS music video.

Interested Firms may submit their **Expression of Interest, Company Profile and Curriculum Vitae of the technical personnel of the production firm** to the **Bids & Awards Committee Secretariat** at 2nd floor, DSWD, Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills, Quezon City with telephone number 951-71-16 until **December 2, 2005 at 5:00 pm.**

(SGD.) **ALICIA R. BALA**
Undersecretary and Chairperson, BAC

(PDI-Nov. 27, 2005)

LEGEND INTERNATIONAL RESORTS LTD.
The Legend Lives On...

A prestigious casino/hotel located at Subic Bay Freeport Zone is currently in need of:

ASSISTANT VIP SERVICES MANAGER

Job Summary:
Provides necessary supervision and make sound decisions on most if not all aspects of VIP Services operations. Supervises and coordinates activities of personnel to ensure prompt and courteous service to guests. Able to formulate solutions on problems encountered by the department in providing the necessary services to our valued guests.

Qualifications:
- College graduate of any course
- Minimum of three (3) years experience in Casino industry
- Minimum of two (2) years exposure in junket operations and negotiations.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Knowledge of any Asian language is an advantage
- Strong interpersonal skills
- Possesses leadership qualities
- Excellent public relations skills
- Prepared to work overtime when required.
- Good working knowledge of necessary computer softwares (Word, Excel, Powerpoint, Front Page, etc.)

VIP SERVICES COORDINATOR

Job Summary:
Qualified applicants will be tasked to liaise with various hotel departments and to provide service that is uniquely LIRL.

Qualifications:
- College graduate of any course
- Fluent in Mandarin, Hokkien and/or Korean languages
- At least one (1) year experience in customer service.
- With excellent written and oral communication skills.
- Strong interpersonal skills
- Patient and flexible
- Prepared to work overtime when required

JUNIOR SURVEILLANCE OFFICER

JOB SUMMARY:
Monitors gaming and support areas with the aid of CCTV. Prepares incident and other related reports as may be required by the Surveillance Officer/Executive

Qualifications:
- Minimum of one year Gaming experience as Inspector or above
- College graduate of any course
- Knowledge of conducting investigations and report writing is an advantage
- Keen observer
- Strong analytical ability
- Good oral and written communication skills
- Computer literate
- Can work under pressure
- Overseas exposure is an advantage

Residents of Olongapo, Zambales, Bataan, Pampanga and/or other areas in Central Luzon are preferred. Interested applicants may send/ submit their resumés/bio-data with supporting documents and recent 2x2 photo to:

LEGEND INTERNATIONAL RESORTS LIMITED
Recruitment & Training Office
2F Oak bldg., Legenda Suites, Cubi Point,
Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Olongapo City 2200
Fax No. (02) 813-5670
E-mail Address: **hrd@legendanet.com**

NEGOSYONG PANGMASA

Holidays are coming!

EARN P 50,000 or more per month!
The ONLY COMPANY that is HIGHLY APPRECIATED by both NATIONAL & LOCAL Government officials

Wholesaling / Retailing

*SAN MIGUEL PRODUCTS * Purefoods, Magnolia, Monterey, Ginebra, Gran Matador, San Mig Coffee, etc. *COCA-COLA PRODUCTS* Coke, Sprite, Hi-C, etc. *CARTOON NETWORK * Disney, Snoopy, Barbie, Matchbox, etc * TITA'S TOCINO, MEGA SARDINES, HOMI, SAUCY-MI, CARICA, EXTREME MAGIC SING, *WATCHES* Cherie Paris, Moi Swiss, etc. MICHEL ANDRE, KOBE Shoes, Beauty Products * Savona, Purella, Slim Mints, Green Tea Fat Burner* Fashion Accessories, apparel and a whole lot more.

We will show you how to make your **P7,000** TURN into multi-million peso business

NAME:

Address:

Contact Nos.

RAFFLE PRIZES will be given away! Cut this AD. This will serve as your RAFFLE STUB.

ATTEND FREE
"ENTREPRENEURSHIP" ORIENTATION
November 28, 30, December 2, 2005
(Monday, Wednesday, Friday)
10:00 am, 2:00 pm & 5:00 pm
December 4, 2005 (Sunday)
1:00 pm & 4:00 pm
GROUND FLOOR, OCTAGON BUILDING
(Back of Megamall), San Miguel Avenue
Ortigas Center

COME IN BUSINESS ATTIRE

PLAUSKI FOREIGN EXCHANGE CORP

Enormous Profit Potential with Capital Outlay as LOW as US$1000

PLAUSKI FOREIGN EXCHANGE CORP, an established brokerage firm that provides trading facilities in the WORLD'S LARGEST currency market offers:

- Online Currency Trading
- 24 Hour Market and Customer Service
- Streaming Real time Quotes and Charts
- Prudent Risk Management
- Daily Market Recommendations

Contact us:

Absolutely no obligation and commitment.

Telephone No.: 889-0599

Tet/Ryan : loc 125 /126 Cell: 0921-798-3563	Wong/Esther (DL): 8896396 Cell: 0920-430-9600 : 0915-887-8228	Cris (DL) : 8895417 Cell: 0915-559-6303

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

REWARD will be given to any person who can give any direct information leading to the arrest of **EDRALIN "Jay" TAGUIAM** whose picture appears above. Said person is the subject of a Warrant of Arrest issued by the Regional Trial Court of Binangonan, Rizal and docketed as Criminal Case Nos. 04-481 to 04-488 for "Multiple Rape." Information may be relayed to **Col. Nap Cuaton** at **3246689** or **Amy** at tel. no. **721-03-53**. All information will be treated in utmost confidentiality.

(PDI - November 27, 2005)

MAYNILAD WATER SERVICES, INC.
Basement, MWSI Bldg., MWSS Complex
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City, Philippines 1100
Tel. Nos. 435-33-66, 920-5521 loc. 3600, 3615, 3616

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND BID

The Maynilad Water Services, Inc. intends to pre-qualify interested applicants for the e-bidding of the following sizes of District Meters.

Particulars		
	Sizes	Quantity
1.	100 mm	19 pieces
2.	150 mm	82 pieces
3.	200 mm	1 piece
4.	250 mm	11 pieces
5.	300 mm	15 pieces
As per MWSI Technical Specifications (Section 32100) & E-Bid Terms and Conditions.		

Interested Bidders may, beginning December 01 until December 07, 2005, obtain further information and secure a complete set of pre-qualification forms, technical specifications and Terms and Conditions (Bid Documents) upon payment of a non-refundable document fee in the amount of P1,500.00, payable to MWSI, at the following address:

PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
MAYNILAD WATER SERVICES, INC.
Basement, MWSI Office, MWSS Cmpd.
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City

For more information, please contact the Purchasing Department at Telephone Nos. 435-3366 and 435-3374.

(Sgd.) LUIS Z. LERMA
Manager, Purchasing Dept.

(PDI - Nov 27 & 28 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL
City of Tangub

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Tangub Sports Complex
Construction of Three (3) Storey Reinforced Concrete Structure (Phase 1)
Brgy. Maloro, Tangub City, Misamis Occidental, Philippines
Loan No. 1843-PHI

1. The Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank toward the cost of the Mindanao Basic Urban Services Sector Project (MBUSSP), and it intends to apply part or the whole of the proceeds of this loan, together with the GOP counterpart funds, to payments under the contract for **Tangub Sports Complex** in Tangub City, Misamis Occidental under Contract No. 001-03SC
2. The **City of Tangub, Misamis Occidental, Philippines** now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the Construction of Tangub Sports Complex (Phase 1), a three (3) storey reinforced concrete structure located at Brgy. Maloro, Tangub City, Misamis Occidental, Philippines. Completion of the Works is **480 Calendar Days**.
3. Bidding will be conducted in accordance with relevant procedures for open competitive bidding as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," to the extent it is consistent with Asian Development Bank's procurement procedures and is open to all Bidders from eligible source countries as defined in "*Guidelines for Procurement Under Asian Development Bank Loans*".
4. The documents required in the Eligibility Documents shall be submitted as part of the Technical Documents of the Bidders as provided in the Instructions to Bidders.
5. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from **City of Tangub, Misamis Occidental, Philippines** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from **8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on November 21, 2005** to **December 27, 2005.**
6. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of **Twenty Thousand Pesos (P20,000.00)**. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative on or before **10:00 a.m. of December 27, 2005.**
7. The **City of Tangub** will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders on **December 14, 2005 10:00 a.m.** at the following address: **Tangub City Hall, Tangub City, Misamis Occidental, Philippines.**
8. Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the address below on or before **December 27, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of **Bank Guarantee** and in an amount of **One Million Nine Hundred Fifty Thousand Pesos (P 1,950,000.00)** or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall be on **December 27, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.** to held at the **Tangub City Hall, Tangub City, Misamis Occidental, Philippines.** Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below at **10:00 a.m. on December 27, 2005.**
9. To be considered eligible and qualified a Bidder must:
   a. have a successful experience as prime contractor in the construction of at least one (1) work of a nature and complexity equivalent to the Works in the last five (5) years, such being verifiable from completion certificates. To comply with this requirement the single contract cited should be at least **Sixty Million Eight Hundred Thousand Pesos (P 60,800,000.00).**
   b. have a minimum average annual construction turnover over the last three (3) years equal to **Seventy Six Million Pesos (P 76,000,000.00).**
   c. submit audited balance sheets or, if not required by the law of the applicants country, other financial statements acceptable to the Procuring Entity, for the last five (5) years to demonstrate the current soundness of the applicants financial position and its prospective long-term profitability.
10. Completion of the Works is required by **Four Hundred Eighty Calendar Days (480 CD).**
11. The **City of Tangub** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Project Implementing Unit (PIU)-LGU Office
BAC Chairman
City Hall, Tangub City, Misamis Occidental, Philippines
Telefax No.: (088) 354-1333

(Sgd.) LIBERTO C. HERA
Chairman, BAC

(PDI - November 20 & 27, 2005)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that **TERESITA C. ALISASIS** and **REGULO B. COLOMA** are charged of the crime of FALSIFICATION OF A PUBLIC DOCUMENT in Crim. Case No. 224450 before Br. 50 Metropolitan Trial Court Caloocan City.

Said accused confederating together prepared a Deed of Absolute Sale affixing the signature of **DIEGA ZUNIGA** making it appear that **DIEGA ZUNIGA** sold a parcel of land consisting of 46,604 sq. meters situated at Bagombong, Caloocan City covered by TCT No. 15715 to **TERESITA C. ALISASIS** when in truth and in fact no such transaction took place.

The public is warned that subject property covered by TCT No. 15715 now covered by TCT No. 361269 in the name of **TERESITA C. ALISASIS** is not for sale.

DIEGA ZUNIGA represented
by son **RAFAEL ZUNIGA DULALIA**

(PDI-Nov. 27, 2005)

AYALA LAND, INC.

INVITATION TO BID

ALI Bid Sale No. 06-2005

Ayala Land, Inc. (ALI) is inviting offers to purchase by way of sealed bids the following items:

LOT NO.	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION OF ITEM	MINIMUM BID
1	One (1) unit old York Chiller - 300TR; R11	Lower Basement, Makati Stock Exchange Building, Ayala Avenue, Makati City	P200,000.00

Complete description of the items including the bid documents (Bid Forms, Bidders Tender and this Invitation to Bid) are available at Ayala Land, Inc - Materials Management Division (ALI-MMD), Bldg. 6, EDSA corner McKinley Road, Makati City. Contact person: Roy Lavapiez, Tel. No. 818-7471 (loc. 109), email address lavapiezroy.mmd@ayalaland.com.ph

Sealed bids should be dropped at the Bid Box located at ALI-MMD on or before November 30, 2005 at exactly two o'clock p.m. The bids shall be labeled ALI-BID SALE No. 06-2005. Ocular inspection may be done before the set deadline of submission of bids.

Bidder's deposit equivalent to ten (10) percent of the bid price in Cash (Philippine Currency) or in Certified Manager's Check in favor of Ayala Land, Inc. shall be enclosed with the sealed bid. Any other form or draft purportedly as manner of payment is not acceptable. A bid without the required bidder's bond shall be declared disqualified.

The bidder must sign the bid form, bidders tender and the sealed envelop across its flap. Unsigned documents shall be a ground for the disqualification of the bid offer. Any erasure, correction, and/or addition must be initialed by the bidder.

The sealed bids will be opened in the presence of the representatives from ALI-MMD, ALI-Audit and Systems, all participating bidders or their representatives and other interested parties.

The sale of the items shall be on an "As is, Where is" basis. The winning bidder shall undertake the full responsibility to acquire the necessary permits in order to have peaceful possession of the items included in the sale.

Upon evaluation and determination of the result of the bidding, a Notice of Award will be issued to the winning bidder. In the event that the winning bidder refuses to accept the award and/or abide by the conditions of the bid, the bid deposit will be forfeited in favor of ALI. The award shall then be given to the next qualified highest bidder.

Upon the winning bidder's acceptance of the Notice of Award, full payment must be made within three (3) working days at ALI-Treasury, 30/F Tower One, Ayala Triangle, Makati City. This will be in the form of cash or manager's check in favor of Ayala Land, Inc. A penalty of ten (10) percent of the bid price plus an additional interest based on the prevailing market rate shall be imposed if the winning bidder fails to withdraw the merchandise from the designated storage area after seven (7) calendar days from the date of receipt of the Notice of Award.

The award shall be made to the bidder who made the most advantageous offer to Ayala Land, Inc. ALI reserves the right to reject any or all bids, or to waive any defect found therein.

All awards shall be subject to the approval of the head of ALI's Materials Management Division and the ALI Comptroller whose decision shall be binding on all concerned.

(Sgd.) JUANITO P. ROSALES
Vice President
Materials Management Division

(PDI--Nov. 27, 2005)

POEA
24-HR HOTLINES
722-1144 • 722-1155

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2005

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS

The Widest Reaching Classifieds

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION
Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
☎ 897-8425 (Direct) ☎ 8978808 (Trunk) Fax 897-8425
G/F ATRIUM BLDG., MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY
☎ 912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6872354 ☎ 6872366 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273142 ☎ 5224406 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

ANNOUNCEMENT

INQUIRER CLASSIFIEDS
MEGAMALL BRANCH
will be open on Monday,
November 28, 2005
from 10:00 AM – 9:00 PM

YOUR BEST CHRISTMAS GIFT !!!

UNIONBANK
SPECIAL PUBLIC AUCTION
ONLY 10% DOWNPAYMENT ! **December 17, 2005 Saturday 9:00 AM** 13% P.A. FIXED FOR THE FIRST 3 YRS.!! 15% P.A. FIXED FOR THE NEXT 12 YRS !!
PC Reyes Room, 2nd Floor
Philippine Columbian Sports Club, Plaza Dilao, Paco, Manila
Call: Joy, Joey, Ariel, Jules & Cathy at # 812-6356 / 893-8620
813-0455 / 840-0140 / 892-0011 Loc. 2652; 2651; 2829; 2619
e-mail us at: esbabas@unionbankph.com or visit us at: www.unionbankph.com

RESIDENTIAL

MAKATI – Salcedo Village	MIN BID
Legaspi St – nr Mkti Med Ctr. & Ayala Ave	
1. Condo / Unit 413,4-F,Windsor Twr nr Dela Rosa St / FA 36	1,087,000
LAS PIÑAS – Talon Dos	**MIN BID**
2 2 Sty Thse/ # 475 C,North 11 St, Angela Vill, Brgy Talon 2 LA 68/FA 101 (access via Happy Ville)	1,600,000
QUEZON CITY	**MIN BID**
3 2 Sty Thse / Unit 10, Golden Shower Exec Hms, # 36 Jose Zabarte,Sr. Ave, Kaligayahan, N'liches LA 42 / FA 65 (nr Sacred Heart Schl)	1,301,000
4 H&L/# 269 M Aquino St Banlat Rd,T Sora LA 120 / FA 191 (near NPC / NIA Subdivision)	1,350,000
LAGUNA – Calamba	**MIN BID**
Brgy Lawa, Revelation St, St. Augustine Vill	
5 Lot / Lot 14 Blk 1 / LA 106	276,000
6 Lot / Lot 15 Blk 1 / LA 106	276,000
PAMPANGA, Mexico	**MIN BID**
Brgy. Sabanilla (Masamat)- nr SM & Robinsons	
7 Lot / L 11 B 25, Bullhead St Ph-6, Beverly Place Resl & Buss Est LA 225 (nr SM Shoemart)	574,000
CAINTA – Brgy. San Juan	**MIN BID**
near Greenland Subd. & Cainta Municipal Hall	
8 Lots 17,18,19,21&22 Blk-1 & Psu-178259, Victoria Avenue LA-2 808 (near Buenmar St)	4,400,000
MUNTINLUPA – Alabang	**MIN BID**
San Jose Vill. (infront of Alabang Town Cntr)	
9. Lot / Lot 264 (Pcs 4946), St Joseph St / LA 526 * w/ favorable decision in favor Unionbank	4,381,000
ANTIPOLO, RIZAL (Lots)	**MIN BID**
10. L 20 B 17, Jerusalem St Ph 5 Brgy Uulan/LA 120 (via Tikling Junction & Melendres Subd)	332,000
11. L 23 B 10, Cottonwood Hts Bayugo / LA 266 (nr Sumulong)	1,332,000
12. L 21 B 2, Birchwood St, Cottonwood Hts, Bayugo / LA 355	1,778,000
13. Lot 47 Blk 18,Park Ridge Est Ph 3 (via Valley Golf) LA 811	1,852,000
14. L 17 B 1, Beverly St, Sta Barbara 1,Mission Hills,Colaique/LA 1,021 (nr Pines City)	3,692,000
15. H&L, L-7 B-3, Valley Golf Dr. Valley Golf Subd., Mayamot LA 1,961 / FA 107 (nr Ortigas Extn)	4,950,000
ANGONO, Rzl. (via Antipolo)	**MIN BID**
16. Lot / L 6 B 2, Mills St, Sta. Monica Classic Est,Ph 3,Mission Hills Brgy Colaique/LA 540 (nr Pines City)	1,950,000
CALOOCAN – Gracepark	**MIN BID**
17. Lot / L 25 & 26 B 31, 2nd St LA 388 (between 3rd & 4th Ave)	3,428,000
BULACAN – Sta. Maria	**MIN BID**
Brgy Guyong, Sunrays Vill – beside Delfi	
18. H&L / L 25 B 1 / LA 74/FA 30	370,000
BULACAN – Plaridel	**MIN BID**
Brgy. Lalangan - Plaridel Heights	
19 Cor Lot / L 2 B 47, LA 355	1,243,000
20. Cor. Lot / L 13 B 7, LA 404	1,414,000
21. Cor. Lot / L 2 B 38, LA 411	1,439,000
22. Lot / Lot 25 Blk 8, LA 350	1,155,000
BULACAN - MALOLOS	**MIN BID**
23. H&L / Lot 2 & 3 Blk 17,Desta Ave cor. 1st St, Desta Hms Brgy Atlag LA 515 / FA 293 (near Sto Cristo Diversion Rd)	2,732,000
TAGAYTAY CITY	**MIN BID**
between Sta. Rosa, Lag. Shortcut & Aguinaldo Hi-way	
24. Lot/Lot 8, Tagaytay Calamba Rd Tolentino West (over looking Taal Lake) LA 2,156 *w/ Lis Pendens	20,000,000
MALABON- Brgy. Dampalit	**MIN BID**
North Merville Park I Subd (*w/ occupants)	
25. *L 1 B 14, J Cancio St/LA 186	110,000
26 *Lot 19 Blk 13A / LA 168	130,000
27 *L 53 B 9, D Rosano St / LA 281	290,000
MALABON – Hulong Duhat	**MIN BID**
28 Lot / # 8 Don Basilio Bautista Blvd / Lot Area 886	6,200,000
MAKATI CITY	**MIN BID**
Kingswood Twr - P. Tamo corner V. Cruz	
29 Condo / Unit P2F, Tower B 28th & 29th flrs / FA 154	7,208,000
30. Condo / Unit P3F,Tower B 26th & 27th flrs / FA - 154	7,208,000
VALENZUELA – Nr Malinta Exit	**MIN BID**
31 Lot / Lot 551 A 2 A 3, Pineda Compd, Bonifacio St / LA 1,114	2,241,000
32. 3 Sty Bldg/ Lot 894 A 3, Mariano Laurel Drive Paso De Blas LA 463/FA 809 (nr Fortune Vill 4)	4,300,000
SAN MATEO,RIZAL-Bo.Patilis	**MIN BID**
33. *Lot / B 15, LA 40,171	2,040,000
34 *Lot / B 16, LA 40,171	2,040,000
35 *Lot / B 17, LA 40,171	2,040,000
36 *Lot / B 18, LA 40,171 * No Right Of Way	2,040,000
NUEVA ECIJA - Cab. City	**MIN BID**
# 529 Pag Asa, Daan Sarili (near LTO)	
37. Lot / Lot 3 A 5 / LA 1,847	401,000
39 Lot / Lot 3 A 4 / LA 1,847	401,000
39 Lot / Lot 3 A 3 / LA 1,848	401,000
40 Lot / Lot 3 A 2 / LA 1,848	401,000
41. Lot / Lot 3 A 1 / LA 1,839	401,000

RESIDENTIAL

BINANGONAN, RIZAL	MIN BID
Green Ridge Subd, Brgy Bilibiran, nr Mun Hall	
42. Lot / L 13 B 10, Gnmsnaw St Phase 4, Lot Area 54	138,000
TARLAC CITY	**MIN BID**
43 2 Sty H&L / L 7 B 18, Family Park Homes, Brgy Cut-Cut II San Miguel / LA 68 / FA 40	276,000
44. Lot / Lot 3871 D, Sapang Maragul, Tibag /LA 10,001-nr Arch	2,652,000
CAVITE – Carmona (Lot)	**MIN BID**
45 L 28 B 4, Ph 1, St Andrew St Mla Southwoods,Cabilang Baybay LA 450 (nr Gate 1) * w/ favorable decision in favor Unionbank	3,005,000
CAVITE - Molino III, Bacoor	**MIN BID**
Madelaine Place, Springville Subd.	
46 Lot / Lot 8 Blk 1 / LA 117	582,000
47 Lot / Lot 6 Blk 4 / LA 120	596,000
48 Lot / Lot 10 Blk 3 / LA 123	611,000
49 Lot / Lot 18 Blk 6 / LA 132	656,000
50 Lot / Lot 19 Blk 7 / LA 132	656,000
Washington Manor, Springville Subd.	
51. Lot / Lot 2 Blk 2 / LA 154	1,020,000
52. Lot / Lot 16 Blk 2 / LA 145	961,000
53. Lot / Lot 18 Blk 2 / LA 162	1,073,000
Central Phase 2, Springville Subd. (Lots)	
54. L 24 B 7,MB Villar Ave /LA 120	974,000
55. L 3 B 3, near ClubHse / LA 112	790,000
56. L 5 B 3, near ClubHse / LA 112	790,000
57. L 7 B 3, near ClubHse / LA 122	861,000
58. L 2 B 1, near ClubHse / LA 96	677,000
Orchard Res'l. Estates and Golf & Country Club - Salitran, Dasmarinas, Cavite	
FAIRWAY LOTS	
59. Lot 46 Blk 50 / LA 630	2,394,000
60. Lot 49 Blk 50 / LA 582	2,212,000
61. Lot 50 Blk 50 / LA 627	2,383,000
NON - FAIRWAY LOTS	
62. Lot 12 Blk 38 / LA 653	1,959,000
63. Lot 06 Blk 45 / LA 1,085	3,255,000
64. Lot 07 Blk 45 / LA 752	2,256,000
CAVITE- Brgy. Palangue, Naic	**MIN BID**
Mango Orchard Res'l. & Farm Estates	
65 Lot 6 Blk 19A / LA 1,249	1,249,000
66 Lot 5 Blk 19B / LA 3,052	3,052,000
67. Lot 8 Blk 19B / LA 1,890	1,890,000
68. Lot 9 Blk 19B / LA 2,247	2,585,000
69 Lot 1 Blk 24 / LA 1,624	1,868,000

COMMERCIAL / AGR.
(SUBJECT TO CREDIT APPROVAL)

MAKATI – Pio Del Pilar	MIN BID
near Bangkal, S.Super Hi-way & EDSA	
70. Lot/L 7 B 7,Evangelista St cor Arguelles St / LA 310	13,311,000
71. L 8 B 7,Evangelista St LA 311	11,700,000
Millenium Plaza-Mkti. Ave cor. Eduque St	
72. Condo Unit / 5/F, FA 261 (near former International Schl)	17,765,000
MANILA – Divisoria (KP Twr.)	**MIN BID**
73. Condo, 2/F, CM Recto Ave cor Juan Luna St / FA 658 *on lease	28,792,000
QUEZON CITY	**MIN BID**
74. Building / Lots 8 & 9 Blk S 27 Timog Ave LA 1,380 FA 1,500 (nr Unionbank Br & GMA-7) *on Lease	70,000,000
75 Whouse / 185 Roosevelt Ave S F Del Monte / LA 5,641 FA 3,454 (infront of Watch Twr)	140,000,000
76 Warehouse / # 138 Gen Luis cor Pasacola Rd, Nagkaisang Nayon, Novaliches LA 49,504 / FA 23,384	300,000,000
CAVITE - Tanza, Bo. Tres Cruces' nr Transville Subd, via Trece Martires	**MIN BID**
77 Agn Lot / Lot-2931 (Rs-1273) LA 40,127 * w/ Adverse Claim & No Right Of Way	5,117,000
TARLAC CITY – Poblacion	**MIN BID**
78. Lot / Lot 4C, Rizal St / LA 759	8,094,000
79. Lot / Lot 4A, Panganiban St LA 1,120 (infront of Iceplant)	11,943,000
VALENZUELA CITY	**MIN BID**
80 Whse / Lot 13 Templanza St D Pedro Vill, Marulas LA 2,540 FA 3,314 (near Savory Rest)	18,209,000
81. Indl Lot w/ 2 Whses (14&16) Barracks, Canteen,Guardhse Lot 1075 D 1 C, Plastic City 6 T. Santiago St, Canumay-West LA 9,923 / FA 7,096	39,703,000
82. Indl Lot w/ Whse / # 47 Maysan Rd / LA 7,871 / FA 7,040 (near Maysan Elem School)	40,702,000
83 Industrial Lot / Lot 382 C Plastic City Housing,Canumay LA 25,798 / (Via T. Santiago St & Pinagbayanan St)	45,000,000
SARIAYA - QUEZON PROV.	**MIN BID**
84 Agn Lot w/ resi H&L, Whse & Piggery/Lot 6181 A 5 A 1 A 1 D, E,F,G,I & Lot 6181 A 4,Psd 4A 001202, Bo Sampaloc/ LA 101,038, FA 9,277 (along the Hi-way) * with Lis Pendens	45,053,000
NUEVA ECIJA - Cab. City	**MIN BID**
# 529 Pag-Asa, Daan Sarili (near L.T.O.)	
85 Agn Lot / Lot 3B / LA 37,041	2,366,000
86. Comml Lot w/ Whse & Offc Lot 2H / LA 2,260 / FA 580	5,098,000

JUST BRING P20,000 SHOW MONEY(CASH OR MC) TO QUALIFY TO BID FOR EACH PROPERTY CWT IS FOR THE BUYER'S ACCOUNT. ALL PROPERTIES FOR SALE ARE ON "AS IS WHERE IS" BASIS Unionbank may, at anytime, withdraw any of the properties listed above prior to auction

EXECUTIVE TOWNHOUSES IN LAS PIÑAS

NO LOAN REQUIREMENTS NEEDED!

Greenlane
LAS PIÑAS

- SPACIOUS MASTER BEDROOM W/ TOILET & BATH
- BEDROOMS W/ WOOD PLANK FINISH & BATHROOMS W/ ITALIAN FLOOR TILE FINISH
- COMPLETE RECREATIONAL & SOCIAL FACILITIES: COVERED BASKETBALL COURT, SWIMMING POOL, CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND & CLUBHOUSE

FOR AS LOW AS **P18,680 PER MONTH**

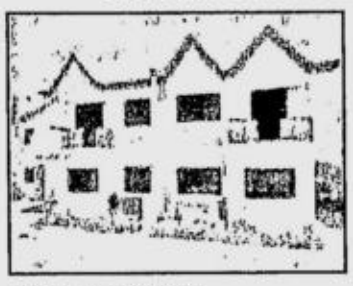
A Project of:
VERAVILLE HOMES

FOR INQUIRIES, PLS. CONTACT OUR BROKERS:

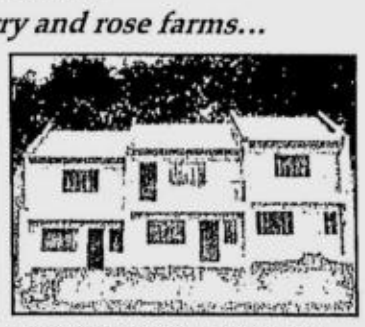
ED ADVINCULA	: 805-4686 / 803-0319
R.F. MAGCANLAS	: 801-2566 / 805-4972
CHE ABELLAR	: 806-0731 / 800-5715
LET-LET CANNU	: 826-7760 / 0919-3016459
EARTHWINGS	: 831-6249 / 851-6220

METRO BAGUIO PROPERTIES FOR SALE

Near the strawberry and rose farms...



114 sq.m. Floor Area



TOWN HOUSE – 60 sq.m.floor area

AVAILABLE THRU PAG-IBIG, BANK or IN-HOUSE FINANCING
LOTS ONLY

*** ACOP, TUBLAY – 15 Hectares**
With plenty of pine trees, Titled and suitable for Retirement Village or Subdivision & only 30 minutes away from Baguio towards Sagada & Banaue

*** ALNO, LA TRINIDAD – 3.566 Hectares**
Approved plan, frontage, along Provincial Road, may be used for agricultural or residential purposes

For Inquiries or site tripping please call
(074) 422-1675 or 0920 910 1739 or
visit us at: WINACA DEVELOPMENT CORP.
Narda's, Km.5 La Trinidad, Benguet
Website: www.winacarealty.com
E-mail: sunflower_homes@ winacarealty.com
AGENTS ARE WELCOME

Expecting balikbayan relatives or friends?

For the 2005 holiday season,

THE COLUMBIA GARDEN RESIDENCES

along Commonwealth Ave., Q.C., near Ever Gotesco and beside St. Peter Church, is offering discounted rates for short-term lease.

The rates begin at P1,350 per day, for a minimum of fourteen days. For more information: Call 952-6334; 952-9557.

MAHOGANY Place

- Strategic location near Global City, Makati and Ortigas for a convenient, comfortable and chic lifestyle
- Superior features and amenities for a luxurious lifestyle
- Distinct house & lot and lot only Spanish-inspired development
- Best value on a smart investment scheme
  - No downpayment
  - 5 years to pay
  - ZERO interest

For a guided tour, please call
Mobile No.(0917) 827-8973
Tel. No. 867-3380
DMCI 50 YEARS

Avail Big Discounts!
A happy family deserves a home at ...
Birmingham
PLACE • HOMES
MEADOWS • SUNRISE

NORTHAMPTON
3 BR 2 TB W/ BATH TUB & CARPORT
LOTS as low as P9T/Mo
H & L as low as P13T/Mo
Call: 655-0134
www.hdc-realestate.com

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

MEDICAL

GARMA CLINIC
VD SPECIALIST
VD GONORRHEA, WARTS SYPHILIS, STD, HERPES
ADULT CIRCUMCISION Painless, Bloodless
BOLITAS, SKIN DISEASES
ALLERGIES, VAGINAL REPAIR, RE-CURRENT UTI ALMORANAS, ERECTION PROBLEMS INFERTILITY/IMPOTENCE MOLE/CYST/SCAR REMOVAL KELOID/PAP SMEAR
COMPLETE LABORATORY
Garma Bldg., No. 8 Purdue St., Cubao, Q.C.
OPEN 9 AM to 5 PM MON. to SAT.
TEL. NOS. 4392706 / 9139474 4373898

PERSONAL

TUTORIAL LESSONS

TUTORS/TEACHERS MATH/ENGLISH/CHINESE PRESCHOOL To High SCHOOL 914-00-36

MISCELLANEOUS

We are offering Quality IT SERVICES in WEB DEVELOPMENT & DESIGN For details & Inquiries Pls. Call 09178302994/email jerric_tode@yahoo.com

HOUSEHOLD

HOUSEHOLD JOBS

A'A MAIDS/YAYA 4386920
All arnd Maid Yaya 4399290
BEST MAIDS 4162896/4939216
BEST MAIDS PROV'L 4162896
Direct Maid Yaya Intl cook 7289060
Direct Maid Yaya Cook Boy 6956702
Good Maid Ya' A/A Cook 7574339
Help Agency 5328376 • 5321947
HOME EXPERT YAYA/HMAIDS/F.DRIVER 773-8998•0918-7095816•
LOW RATE Maid 4337898
NEED MAIDS 4328194
Trusted Maids Yaya H'boy 7572089

LIPAT BAHAY

•731-6833•LIPAT

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

HOUSEHOLD

LIPAT BAHAY

L-BAHAY 9206784 4540520
Cheap 9260424/09163416775
Lipat 6817623 ★ 6817135
OPEN&CLOSE VANS TEL#731-8549
•P1300/TRIP 742-14-57

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

COMMERCIAL

KALOOCAN

NEW COMM'L TOWNHOUSE 6th AVENUE CALOOCAN 7337767/69/73

CAVITE

Fully established auto repair and detail shop
FOR SALE!!
Guaranteed ROI, With existing high-level corporate accounts, Strategically located near SM Bacoor, Cavite, Only auto shop in Cavite with credit card facility, First shop Cavite accredited by insurance companies, with POS system, 350 square meters. Interested parties may call or text 0917-5776699 or 0920-9505740

COMM'L/RESDL

QUEZON CITY

★ KATIPUNAN EXT ★
LA315-1119m² Comml nr Ateneo P9500-10T/m² 0918-9235216

HOUSE & LOT

•West Triangle•
corner lot very accsble near park church Lelet 2596630 Ella 09154667320

KALOOCAN

120Sqm 4BR 2TB w/Grge 5M neg 3650204 3652080

LAS PINAS

P1.1M 2BR 2STRY 8054686

MAKATI

2.5M Brgy Rizal 09208309744

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

MAKATI

3.5M Cardona St. 09208309744

Lots, H&L C5 nr Fort
1.4M-13M Nr McKinley Hills 4-5br 10% DP or 3Yrs No Int or No DP 10mins Fr. Ayala 0917-8313226

MANILA

INTRAMUROS 09153709774

SAN ANDRES MANILA
5BR 5T&B 4 CAR GARAGE
MARICEL 5344515-81

MANDALUYONG

NEAR SHAW BLVD
BnewThse/3stry/3br/3-4lb maids1-2grgeP3.780M8903461

MARIKINA

2.6M 4BR 3TB bnew 9422154

97SQ 4BR 2FLR NR STA LU 9158015 0917-8580878 P2M

Bnew 4br3tb jacuzi 3.2M 9487112

Enstview Homes 1.9M & up bnew SA 2sty 3BR 2TB loan ok nr Parang market 9422154

PROVIDENT VILL nr ATENEO 413m² w/ 3hsos nr gate P4M LOT ONLY 301m² gate Rush 2.2Mneg T6356003; 9338423

PARANAQUE

MERVILLE 2 COR. 667sqm
DUPLEX BUNGALO 8074443

QUEZON CITY

3 STRY 4BR 5CR NICE BIG 300LA 370FA 9.5M 38 DAGUPAN SFDM 09178909502

Arcadia 4br 09175213838

•Kamias #76K-6 new
9210255 / 9967 09178665431

Nr Visayas Av Gloria IV Subd 5BR 5T&B 4554123/4566854

NR VISAYAS AVE
5BR5TB P7M 09209115081

X'villa II 9M / N.Olympus 2.5 Rush 9610404/0908-2039731

RIZAL

FILINVEST EAST 2 STY 3BR DEN 3CG 7M 0920-3871001

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

RIZAL

Primrose Antipolo 850K neg 09178973504 Ana 4537871

OTHER PROVINCIAL

Villa Benita Cabanatuan H&L 4B 2.8M (0919)3352307

BATANGAS

3 Houses 3-5m 09216490851

CAVITE

BACOOR 535K CP-092726690

LAGUNA

Brandnew H&L 1M-25M (10am-5pm) 842-1914/842-9570/0915-8260255

Laguna Bel-Air Sta Rosa Low D/P Edna 0917-8312369 Mariel 0917-6215864

PACITA 1 SN PEDRO LAG 83m² FA180m² 8080239

SALE: H&L-132m² 70m²FA 2Bdrms 1T&B Binan, Laguna PRICE NEG. • CALL BITUIN 721-2377 • 0922-8058270

CONDO/TWNHSE

MALABON

Araneta Village Malabon FA 250m² 3br 5tb 413-7294

MAKATI

10%DP Lipat Agad!
1.3M-Up 3Yrs. No Int 2-4BR CS Near Fort / Mkti 0917-8169849

1.5M Resort Type Condo 2BR 10%DP, Move-In, RFO nr. D'Fort 0915-4445299 Myra

1BR/PKG ASIA TWR 6334107

MKTI/MLA BNEW CONDO SALE / RENT 0917-6266516

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

MAKATI CONDO
RENT / SALE : Ready to move-in
843-0887 / 887-5318
www.condo.com.ph

RUSHI CONDO nr C5 D'Fort Lakeview Manors 2BR w/Pkg 1.4M 0906-2621143 • 0917-8212400

MANILA

BIG DISCOUNT
2br-2.8M 94sqm
Phaus-4.9M 113m²
30% Downpayment
70% - 2 yrs to pay 0% Int.
ASIAWEALTH TOWER
Nr La Salle / St. Scholastica
Call 5225950 / 0917-8307643

LE MIRAGE
more than 1,200sqm of Amenities
1BR, 2BR, 3BR
AS LOW AS 1.9M CASH
30% Downpayment
70% - 1yr to pay 0% Int.
READY FOR OCCUPANCY
2126 A. Mabini St. corner Quirino Ave. Malate Manila
Call 5259871 / 4040306 0917-8307643

NR LA SALLE TAFT
BnewThse/3stry/3br/3-4lb maids1-2grgeP3 995M8903461

Nr. UP-MANILA/ROBINSON FURN. STUDIO w/ CABLE CALL: 0917-9160226

MANDALUYONG

CONDO, BNEW, 09192189817

Condo4Sale BWackWack Rd. 6F 174sm 3BRM 3 1/2 Bath 2CPA ek Upgrade Unit 0917-8865134

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE

PARANAQUE

1.4M RESORT-TYPE nr NAIA 10% DP to move-in, or 0%, or No DP 1st Class, Bnew • 0917-5234223

BRITANNY T/house Promo
Blk Lot 16 6.6M now P5.7M
Blk Lot 20 6.6M now P5.7M
Blk Lot 14 7.0M now P6.0M
Portofino la522 6.8M now5.9M
806-6309 ; 0917-8413300

Townhouse 4 Sale 2story 2BR w/TB, Attic & Garage Condo Unit 4Sale 4Rent 2BR2Story Negotiable Call 8251516/0905 /7517

PASIG

★GRAND 21★
The Newest Low Rise Rsdtl Condo Bside Ortigas
Inside Capitolyo Subd.
Studio 1BR / 2BR Penthouse
1.05M Up 24 HR SECURITY
2MINS. AWAY FROM MEGMALL
Call: 638-1888 • 638-8188

Malayan Plaza 634-1212

Rent / Sale 123BR Terms RFO Call 414-0573

VVERDE 3BR 2M 912-4323

QUEZON CITY

1studio unit 30.19m² Infront NCBA nr LRT Aurora 1.5neg 7230227/28 Nemy

3BR 2TB 1car grge XAVIER VILLE2 P2.6M 0917-8080178

CUBAO nr Aranota Center 2sty P1M DP Terms 437-2178

Cubao P1.5M 10%DP 5yrs to Pay "0" Interest 9126976 Roso

New Mla 4br 09175213838

•Teacher Village•
P3.8M
2-CAR GARAGE; 4BR;4T&B W/ MAIDS ROOM & ROOF-DECK ALL CONCRETE BANK OR IN-HOUSE FINANCING
439-1995 / 0927-3767064
939-5225 / 439-6921

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

MEDICAL

PHYSICIAN/SURGEON

VDSTD CLINIC COMP LAB
Most STD Treated W/Oral Medications
T 8175071 Metrinco Bldg
2178 P.Tamo Mkti City

PERSONAL

ARCHITECTS

ARCHT/2D/3D (0927)9194639

CONSULTING SERVICES

THESIS HELP? 09175310994

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

MEDICAL

DR. G.E. FARIN
VD SPECIALIST
VD GONORRHEA, WARTS SYPHILIS, AIDS, HERPES
ADULT CIRCUMCISION Painless, Bloodless
SKIN DISEASES
HUMPS, BOLITAS
CYST, IMPOTENCY, KELOID REMOVAL
55 New York Cubao, Q.C.
Tel. No. 440-1865/913-6842
OPENS MON-SAT 9AM-6PM

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

MEDICAL

COSMETOLOGY

WHITENING CAPS P1500
PINK Nips Lips Cheeks Cream P800 • 4545667• 09189235216

ENGINEERS

AMN LAND SURVEY 7702903

HEALTH/FITNESS

Addiction Problem? Call RECOVERY CIRCLE 912-9729 or 911-5934

TUTORIAL LESSONS

1-ON-1 ONLINE TUTORING
www.tutorslive.com

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE

OTHER AREAS

Now 2Sty 3BR 3TB 2CG 4.2M nr UP INC 0927-4198270

LAGUNA

Hot Springs Resorts Sale or Rent 934m² 6 Units Townhouses w/ Individual Pools Jacusis 0917-8665134

LOT

MAKATI

114sqm @P25T/m² 890-8681

298m² @P30T/m² 0917-9160226

GUADALUPE NUEVO 3 LOTS 762 SQM CALL 09195998039

MARIKINA

354M² TOWN & COUNTRY MARCOS P3,7M² 915-8015 0917-8560878

PASIG

Coml along Marcos Hway good for resto/condo nr Metro East/Robinsons 1366m²@P25Tm² 455-6164

VALLE VERDE 5 MORN'G SUN 400m² @ P39T/m² 6337601-03

QUEZON CITY

114m² @525K; 130m² @650K 932-7426 • 0917-5258034

2.5M PROJ.8 09208309744

300/600/1200m² 9178863211

GlorialV Subd nr Visayas Ave 444m² 455-4123/456-6854

GRAND VILLAS Top Row w/view back ATENEO LOTS hse & lots avble 426-5650 929-1832 • 0919-8212235

★KATIPUNAN Ext Resl lot nr UP Ateneo 204 to 408m² P8,500/m² 0918-9235216★

LOT 300SQM ROOSEVELT PARKWAY Q.C. 7337767/69/73

LOT FOR SALE HOBART SUBD Q.C. 421m² CALL 09173953322

NORTHVIEW I BATASAN DBO 272m² P5950/m² 655-8804

Rush Acropolis Morning Sun Very Nice Location @P13M •T8896475;4796 6337601-03•

RIZAL

562m² Loc Brgy Saperya Binagonan • 0917-8986809

OTHER AREAS

Canyonwds 413sqm 8074443

SNCHZ SJC N. ECIJA 1092sqm
RAMOS SJC N. ECIJA 603sqm
8074443

LAGUNA

Lake Caliraya (Lakeside)
1500sqm 8074443

OFFICE SPACE

Pioneer(Globe) Mandaluyong 89-206m² Rent/Sale 09192189817

MEMORIAL LOT

8Lots Loyola Marikina 09189026306 / 9412350

Heritage Park II 634-1212

FARM/FISHPEN/ RAWLANDS

BALANGA CITY BATAAN 24,269sqm dev farm neg Benjo 09275576814 TERMS

MANGO ORCHARD FARM 14 HECTARES PLANTED TO 300+ MANGO TREES AT TERNATE CAVITE NR PUERTO AZUL GIVE AWAY AT 115/SQM NO TENANTS CLEAN TITLE 09185101594•8230916

Res'l Farm Lot 3.2hac Naic Cavite 4554123/4566854

WANTED TO BUY

WE BUY BLDG HOUSES READY FOR DEMOLITION 951-1366 ; 0927-7115000

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

HOUSE

MAKATI

2Sty 3BR+Den All Rms w/ Aircon, Pool Garden P170k Dasma Vill 0920-6359607

600m² lot w/ 300m² garden space 3BR 3T&B living/dining, open porch kitchen & maids qrtr w/ T&B, aircon in dining/living areas, Aircon unit in Masters Bdrm, 1 Car Garage Call 0917-8080843 • 4333760

Nr. Ayala 2BR 2TB 890-8681

MANDALUYONG

Sta. Lucia SL 3BR Grg 5347689

QUEZON CITY

2BR TSora 6,400 09156257259

CAVITE

Palas Athena Subd Aguinaldo H-way Imus Cavite 303sqm 3br 2tb P10,700/mo. Call Sylvia 576-2145

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

CTL8 STU 1BR 8T 11T 9299835

Stud-Legaspi Vil. 0917-8454534

MANILA

40 sq m Burgundy condo unit infront of DLSU, Taft, Mla Cory - 0920 9603724

Ocean Tower, Rxs Blvd 3BR&TB, Pkg, Facing Bay 55K; 09178587929

MANDALUYONG

•WACK WACK HEIGHTS• 150sqm 3BR/3TB, F/F w/Golf View/Parking, Newly Renovated •Call/Text 0917-8195870•

MARIKINA

Bnew 2sty 2BR w/covrd grge Tierra Vista Subd 9480309

VARIOUS AREAS

Ponte St. Makati 2BR Greymarvil LasPinas 2BR w/ Parking • 8983447

PARANAQUE

Better Living Pque Twnhse Unit 16 Thailand St. Call 8974044 • Ashley

PASIG

3br2cg 15T nr SM Mega 9002400

QUEZON CITY

3BR 2TB 1car grge XAVIER VILLE2 17T/mo 0917-8080178

CUBAO, COLUMBIA 2BR Furn P18TH/MO SAVELL 646-1603

VARIED AREAS

'G'hls Annapolis 1br&pkg 14T 'nr West/SM/Mnz U/D 3br 10T By Appt 3745396/09154077236

APARTMENT

MAKATI

2BR P11T/mo 2mos.dep/1 mo. adv Terms:1year min. La Paz, Makati Text Lea Solidum 0917-3876924 Call 7294245

3BR 13T CP09189363199

SAV 6861 SAMPALOC 8229684

MANDALUYONG

APT 4 RENT MAND. W/2BR CALL 5324247 0918-6153907

PASAY

2stry Conc. 2&3bdr nr DFA 5510310 CP:0910-9204885

UP/DWN NR. MKTI GOOD 4 2= 5.5T GUD FOR 3= 6T 850-8154

SAN JUAN

BIG 2STRY P9T 7008515

FOR LEASE

WAREHOUSE SPACES FOR LEASE
489m² & up 3306951-55 Tess

FOR LEASE

1. OFFICE SPACES
   Logaspi/Salcedo Vill. Makati
2. STORE SPACES/ WAREHOUSES
   Dasmarinas Cavite
   Alabang-Zapote Rd., Las Piñas
3. CHEMICAL TANKS
   Bauan, Batangas

ALL RENTAL - NEGOTIABLE
Call Tel. No. 892-2681 to 96
ARIEL/DING/REXIE/BERNIE

WAREHOUSE/ FACTORY

1800m² New Meycauayan Tollgate Nlex 726-4046

•CABUYAO LAGUNA NEW WHSES 850-2700m² INSULATED ROOF 4RENT 09186267995

FOR SALE / LEASE
A-1 WAREHOUSE / FACTORY AT STA ROSA LAGUNA
LA: 2117M² TFA: 1418M² W/170M² OFF / RESL SPACE
531-1363 • 631-7925

ROOM & BOARD

4T For1; 5T For1/2 Cmpd 7191722; 0917-5258034 Walk MRT-SM North

El Grande Inn 8257524 BF Pque P200I Tel8275345

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

ROOM & BOARD

Windsor Inn Maceda St nr 7-11 Dimasalang, Manila 7118679, 7836781(24hrs)

PARANAQUE

Eastgen Airport Apartel Std 6.5T /mo 2BR 8.5T, 1T Day, 580 1/2 day A/C,Cble/Furn/8544832-33

BEDSPACE

Mkti nr Ayala P1T Ldy 8974697

BUSINESS RENTAL

Medlink-Clinic Sharing Tel. 3391175 • 09193512810

OTHER PROVINCIAL

Prime property along O-G Rd, Sta Cruz, Lubao, Pampanga in front of public market, beside church w/ bldg. & parking, densely populated area, ideal for Jollibee, McDonalds, banks. Pls. Call: 09214355443

LOAN & MORTGAGE

BUSINES .DCTOR 524-3197 0919-3227420

LOT FOR LEASE

AGUIRRE 350sqm 8074443

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

"OFFICE CONDOMINIUM " MADRIGAL BUSINESS PARK MUNT. AYALA ALABANG
' FOR SALE/LEASE '
SPACES ARE AVAILABLE W/ OR W/O TENANT
ALABANG BUSINESS TOWER
PARK TRADE CENTER
SOUTH CENTER TOWER
AREA: 12-864 SQM/FLR
T:842-2408/807-0353
WELCOME BROKERS/AGENTS

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

CONDO/TWHSE/ FOR SALE/RENT

3BDR 2TB Prkg Garden GA Tch VIII Ph4 400-9407

Condo Nr LaSalle St. Scho H-way w/ Parking 400-9407

RENAISSANCE 3000 2BR SF MINA 09177643188 / 6366898
STEPHEN 09274907599
SALLY 09157843128 / 8963035

MAKATI

2BR 1Mds Rm 3TB Sale 5M•Rent 30T /mo. 110m² nr Mkt City Hall Call Arlene 8990612/09287132967

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

BMW

BMW 325 '87 Superklnis All Orig A1Cond 310T T:8152568

DODGE

Dodge Caravan '89 P380T Negotibale TEL:8181805

HONDA

'02 Civic VTI automatic fully loaded mettalic gray 480Tneg 09189026306 / 9412350

'96 HONDA LEGEND 3.2 V6 83TKWH All Power/ Sunroof, 1st Owner Call/Text 09178195870

ISUZU

02 Isuzu Trooper 1 own 30T Kms 1.05M Neg. 523-1960 / 0928-3867789

2003 ISUZU XWIND XUV DIESEL A/T WHITE 16TKMS P650T 0919-3826923

MERCEDES

'89 SEL300 A1 Orig 9002400

MB95 S320L 1st OWNER 33T KMS TOP CONDITION 0917-8009101, 899-1904

MITSUBISHI

04 L200 Strada Mitsubishi 09216117609

99SpWgn A1 LowMile 9002400

L300 FB 02 380T 09189039302

NISSAN

97 Cefiro A/T White OrigPnt 1-0 LoMile 268T 09158992223

NISSAN BRAND NEW PROMO! SENTRA NO DP URVAN 95T DP X-TRAIL 70T DP 09172587749

TOYOTA

96Corolla Taxi 165Tneg 4160070

VOLVO

'01 S70 27Tkm 1st Own P650T Neg 7445100 or 02 Cheri

EDSA Auto Exchange
199 EDSA, before SEC (South Bound)
Quality Used Cars For Sale
We accept car financing and trade in.
BIGGER USED CAR SALE AT EDSA
Ask about
EAX ADVANTAGE PROGRAM
Vehicle Warranty Program
· Free periodic maintenance and change oil
· Free towing
HURRY!!!
CALL or VISIT NOW!
TEL. NO. 727-1397

PEUGEOT
Authorized Peugeot Dealer
Lion Motors, Inc
315 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. Makati City
894 27 36
840 27 36
894 29 10
peugeotsales@lionmotors.com.ph

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

OTHER CAR BRANDS

BERYLLE CARS
Araneta Ctr Cubao nr All Mall finance T-in consignment Pajero Trooper Lite-TownAce Delica Serena Largo Estima Safari Surf Fargo rvr Elf Canter 4-6W etc slot rental 0917-8342020 / 02-9120647

MOTORCYCLE

5Units 2002 Honda XLR200 0928-3895123 0921-4940938

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

Affordable Rent a Car Hiace, Vios, Corolla Low Rates 0920-9518097

CarsVans CoasterBus 422-9296

MARIAN CARS•VANS•BRDAL 8969956

Cheap Van 9330311;9348411

•FRANCIS CAR RENTAL•
ALL CARS U/DRIVE W/DRIVER
T-8334476;7291858 CEL 09198985176

L3 09163443087 / 8738947

CRV Innova Starex 9483535

P800/L3 9136710 / 4333682

RENT A VAN
0917-5444721 • 642-4405

HEAVY EQUIPMENT/ TRANSPORT

Warehouse Garage Sale Container Vans/Gensets Forklift /Drlg tools etc. Mike/Glo tel. 807-1862/63

CAR LOAN

1% Auto Easy 5344441

1% AUTOLOAN 788-0361

1% Car Lending 915-3460 United Tree Car Loan Corp.

1% CARLOAN 373-6519

1% Easy Car Loan 4112547/48

1% w/out taking car 7262780

1% w/out taking car 5315577

1.5% Easy Car Loan 3748765

1.5% easy carloan 7815352/55

1.5% w/o taking Car 7228942-43

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3732081/82

2% w/o taking car 7880183-84

2% w/o taking car 7723810/12

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

BILLIARDS

Sale/Rental/Service 8014494 0464771344 09179870097

Casa Kalayaan Learning Center
Is in need of an
ASSISTANT TEACHER
- Female, preferably between 25 to 30 years old.
- With pleasing personality.
- Fluent in written and spoken American English.
- With experience in home-schooling using an American curriculum.
- Willing to undergo training and pursue an educational career.

Interested parties are advised to submit their curriculum vitae, T.O.R latest 2x2 photo, and other pertinent documents to:
CASA KALAYAAN LEARNING CENTER
Bldg. 5144, West Kalayaan, Subic Bay Freeport Zone,
(047) 252 1951 / (047) 252 1952
or E-mail at: casakalayaanlearningcenter@yahoo.com

INVITATION TO BID

Bank will foreclose & auction the following

Property located at:
No. 31 Balagtas-Bustos Provincial Rd. Sitio Mataas na Sampaloc, Barangay Bulihan, Plaridel, Bulacan

Description:
Lot Area : 1) 2,268 sqm 2) 2,268 sqm
Improvements : 2,886 sqm (aggregate)
1) Production Bldg. – one (1) storey bldg.
2) Canteen/Maintenance – one (1) storey bldg.
3) Building 3 – two (2) storey bldg.
4) Guard house/barracks – two (2) storey bldg.

For particulars, Please call 811-5807 to 14 Look for Gee/Cirila/Dannie

(PDI-Nov. 20, 27 & Dec. 4, 2005)

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

PCCI
12th AKU & 24th FCI SHOW
ALL-BREEDS DOGSHOWS
EXPO PILIPINO, CLARK FIELD ANGELES CITY, PAMPANGA
December 17 & 18, 2005
UNDER INT'L. JUDGES
Mr. KOSEI TAKEDA (JPN)
Mr. KENNETH EDH (SWEDEN)
STRICTLY NO ADDENDUM
SPONSORS
ROYAL CANINE DOG FOOD
EUKANUBA DOG FOOD
ALPO DOG FOOD

NOTICE TO PCCI MEMBERS

PLEASE BE INFORMED OF THE NEW OFFICERS & DIRECTORS OF THE PHIL. CANINE CLUB, INC. 2005-2006

President: AUGUSTO BENEDICTO SANTOS III
1st Vice-President: WILFREDO GUTIERREZ
2nd Vice President: RENE AGUIRRE
Corporate Secretary: EMMANUEL RAMOS
Asst. Corporate Secretary: BON REYES
Corporate Treasurer: BERNIE JALANDONI REPALBOR
Asst. Treasurer: RONNIE NATIVIDAD
Directors:
Mr. FLORENTINO BUSTOS
Mr. ROBERT DAWSON
Mr. ROLAND GAPUZ
Mr. DARIUS GARCIA
Mr. BENJAMIN LUMANLAN
Mr. REYNATO PUNO, Jr.
Mr. MILO VALDEZ
Mr. DANNY RAMILLANO

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

YAMAHA GRAND & UPRIGHT ELITE PIANO CENTER
Almost New:TERMS-7213124

PETS

DOG TRAINER 0919-7219020

GRAND OPENING DEC. 3, 2005
KOI VILLAGE
One of the largest KOI (Japanese Colored Carps) Mart in the Phils.•Over 1000 KOI on display for sale at any given time. Bring your children to feed the KOI •Paseo de Magallanes, EDSA cor So. Super Hway 0922-8981086

SCHNAUZER ADULT BREEDERS & PUPS 12K UP T8247157/52

WANTED TO BUY

A NAME YOU CAN TRUST!
MANILA WATCH EXCHANGE
BUY • SELL • PAWN
ROLEX+OTHERS
& OTHER SWISS WATCHES
DIAMONDS / JEWELRY
HI-APPRAISAL/FAST CASH
REPAIR/POLISH ANY WATCH
T#804-0404 • 834-2886

"PROFESSIONAL & CREDIBLE"
WE BUY USED
SWISS WATCHES
SECONDO 2F GLORIETTA 1 (8940282
SWISS WATCH LOANS
LOW 5% INTEREST
AGENCIA DE MAKATI 889-7956

WE BUY AT HIGH PRICE
ROLEX
5646593 5897041
5633742 0917-8473744

BUYING ROLEX
Other WATCHES, BEST PRICE
0917-8884040 • 7269687
7220433 • 4123543

MISCELLANEOUS

7Units BARBER'S CHAIR Layug with complete accesrs 9123651 09175385586 Vic

TENTS all kinds 9281486

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

★EDSA Shangrila Hotel★ Worship • Reserve • 928-7955

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the heirs of spouses Tranquilina Opulencia and Miguel Parabuac registered owners of Lot 6 Pcs-27556 covered by TCT No. 136831 of the Registry of Deeds for the Calamba Branch have executed a deed of extrajudicial settlement of TCT No. 136831 per Doc #2, Page #1, Book #IX, Series of 2005 before Notary Public Atty. Rufino Opulencia of Manila (PDI-Nov. 20, 27, Dec 4, 2005)

PERSONAL

NOVENA TO THE MOST SACRED HEART of JESUS and SAINT JUDE

May the most Sacred Heart of Jesus be Praised, Blessed, Loved, Adored and Glorified throughout the whole world now and forever. Amen.
Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Pray for us.
St. Jude Worker of Miracles, helper for the helpless Pray for us. Say nine times a day for nine days. Prayer will be answered by the eight day, it has never failed.
Thank You very much, Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and St. Jude, for favor granted.-A.R.M.V.

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

A NEW BUSINESS IDEA FROM SINGAPORE Helping Filipinos Worldwide Jamie 09178045234 Celis 09177963241 / 8210254

earnextranow.com code: atb2004 8531008 09178901851

Experienced Female Marketing Director 0917-8463228

Garments, P20 Up 412-8673

GARMENTS SUBCONTRACTORS with at least 20machines Call Arce at 697-0068 to 70 Mon-Sat/ 0922-8661004 Sun

I NEED MEDICINES HOSP SUPPLIES & EQUIPT ANY QNTY TXT/CALL 09205398509 CHRISTINE

NEED X'MAS CASH??
PART TIME WORK. EARN UP2 17,000/MON. 8404457

RETIRE 2YRS 09189051567

RIGHT PRODUCTS RIGHT CO RIGHT SYSTEM RIGHT PPL RIGHT MLM 09209612158

NEED SIDELINE! Sel your Hrs! P/F up tp 20K/mo. 376-2642 & 44

RTW CONSIGN 0917-8830002

BUSINESS FOR SALE

ASIAN Specialty Fine Restaurant MM Franchise Sale 09103108886

Mall Shop 4Sale 70T Move In B4 Xmas 0917-8866716

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

HGV TRUCK DRIVER. RC#3 w /Lic. HELPER MECH. w/ driver Lic. Knowledge in Auto Electrical. Automotive Painter. Safety Officer.Apply in person Biodata. Ortigas Ext. Ave.JG Garcia YoungTown Avenue, Cainta Rizal. 656-3420

FEMALE

LIC. PHARMACIST Pasig P'que & Bicutan 641-6465 / 641-6387

SECRETARY
• 21 Yrs old & above, computer literate, hardworking w/pleasing personality Tel 941-0716 934-7975

MALE/FEMALE

AGENTS & TELEMARKETERS COMMISSION OR BASIC 881-1385 • 0910-4208843

GARMENTS QUALITY CONTROL
at least 3 years experience
Call Al 7271991-96 Mon-Sat

HIRING! CALL CENTER AGENTS FAX-RESUME AT 879-8272

MONTESSORI PLAYSKOOL PASIG IS NOW HIRING FOR SY 06-07 CALL 6402009 6420254 6407337

Part/Full Time English Teachers Pref w/ Call Ctr & Korean Language Ctr exp P100-150/hr 4330961

WANTED GARMENTS SUBCON W/ GTEB ACCREDITATION MIN. 30 MACHINES LOOK FOR ARCE 697-0068 TO 70

ICU NURSE
w/or w/o experience, registered or underbond
NURSE, MIDWIFE
NURSING AIDE, BABY SITTER w/experience
419-4223 • 419-4217

PHARMACIST 7363488

RARE INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY
FORECLOSED ASSET
FULLY-DEVELOPED SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE IN CEBU
1. OFFICE and HARD DISK MFG. PLANT
   FIRST CLASS BLDG / FA: OVER 2 HECTARES
2. INDUSTRIAL LOTS
   1,000 sqms. TO 38 hectares @ 2500 per sqm.

Only 10% DOWNPAYMENT needed
Very flexible repayment up to 20 years

Call: (02) 814-5637 (02) 890-0559 (02) 812-4958
E-mail: etvergara@plantersbank.com.ph
or etvergara@yahoo.com

Casa Kalayaan Learning Center
A competitive package awaits highly qualified applicants for an international school. We need:
PRE-SCHOOL TEACHERS
Creative, fun loving and child-oriented.
- Preferably between 21 to 35 years old
- With pleasing personality
- Preferably graduates of B.E ED., B.S. ED. and/or licensed teachers.
- Competent in English, Mathematics and computer literacy
- Preferably with at least two years teaching experience.
- Able to work with multinational students from the toddler through kindergarten.
- Willing to relocate to the Subic Bay area

Interested parties are advised to submit their curriculum vitae, T.O.R. latest 2x2 photo, and other pertinent documents to:
CASA KALAYAAN LEARNING CENTER
Bldg. 5144, West Kalayaan, Subic Bay Freeport Zone. (047) 252 1951 / (047) 252 1952
or E-mail at: casakalayaanlearningcenter@yahoo.com

FOR SALE
SOAP MANUFACTURING EQUIPMENT PLODDER AND ACCESSORIES
Binachi and Co. Machine Model SPM - 300
year 1996, PL-30, weight 2,900 kilograms
Powered by about 1.5.0 Kw electric motor
SELLING PRICE: P1.6 M (neg)
Call: (02) 814-5637 (02) 890-0559 (02) 812-4958
E-mail: etvergara@plantersbank.com.ph
or etvergara@yahoo.com

AMA BANK
THE LARGEST USED CAR LOAN BANK IN THE COUNTRY TODAY
MEMBER:
AMA GROUP OF COMPANIES
NO. 1 RURAL BANK / NO. 1 CAR LOAN BANK
2004/2005 NATIONAL SHOPPERS' CHOICE AWARDEE
MOST OUTSTANDING RURAL BANK / CAR LOAN BANK
2004/2005 PHILIPPINE MARKETING EXCELLENCE AWARDEE
TOP CAR LOAN BANK
2005 NATIONAL CONSUMERS QUALITY AWARDEE
USED CAR LOAN PROMO
SPECIAL INTEREST RATE AS LOW AS
7% p.a.
ACCEPTABLE YEAR MODELS
1991-2005
Also available:
AMA BANK
CAR - LATERAL LOAN
Cash Loan Using Your CAR AS COLLATERAL!
Fast Processing and Check release.
For more details Pls. call at Tel. Nos.
413-5777 / 372-6698 / 372-6526 / 373-9913
373-3901 loc. 8302/8303/8220

PerfectLogistics Phils., Inc.
Manila/Rizal area Marcos hi-way Santa Rosa Dr (beside San Benildo Sch
Subic 54c Innovative St Industrial Park SBMA
BIGGEST SALE EVER!!!
- *"Special Arrangement"* for OFWs, SEAMANS, PILOTS, BALIK BAYAN.
  DITO KA NA SA SIGURADO, MURA NA
  MAY WARRANTY PA!!!

Prices are too low to print.
Many units to choose from
- Mits. DELICA
- Nissan Caravan
- Estima LUCIDA, Emina
- PAJERO 2.8 / 2.5, SpaceGear 2.8 / 2.5
- TOYOTA Land Cruiser,
- Nissan SERENA
- Isuzu BIGHORN
- FORD Freda, MAZDA Frontee
- MITS RVR
- TOYOTA GRANVIA / REGULUS
- AND MANY MANY MORE

TRUCKS
ELF
FORWARD (Cargo, Wing Van)
10 Wheeler TRUCKS
- FINANCING Available
- 1yr Warranty in Conversion
- 1 mo. Warranty in Engine & Transmission

NO Hidden Cost
In Good Running Condition
For more info, pls. Contact
Tel. Nos. (MANILA) 249-1818 Telefax: 249-1831
Mobile nos.: 0917-8579153 FRED 0926-6911125 EMIL
0918-2069813 REY 0918-5886075 JUN
SUBIC : (047) 252-58-99 - 0917-2700347

INVITATION TO BID

Bank will foreclose & auction the following

Property located at:
along M. Santillan St. Barangay Arnaiz (Pio del Pilar) North, Makati City *(land only)*

Description:
Lot Area 329 sq.m.
within commercial / residential area

For particulars, Please call 811-5807 to 14 Look for Gee/Cirila/Dannie

(PDI - Nov. 20, 27 & Dec. 4, 2005)

THE HERITAGE PARK
FORT BONIFACIO
Funeral Home and Crematory
845-2334 to 38; 845-2440

OBITUARIES

RATE
P245 per column centimeter
(All prices exclusive of E-VAT)

DEADLINE
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Monday to Sunday
12:00 noon
Day before publication

When life's work is all completed, He will gently call you home.
Oh, the rapture of that meeting! Oh, the joy to see you come.

Jose Macapinlac Pernia

of Minalin, Pampanga and Tagbilaran, Bohol
Died in the Grace of our Lord
on November 25, 2005 at the age of 72.

His beloved wife, **Presentacion;** daughter **Marian;** son-in-law **Ray Kamus;** grandchildren **J** and **Pepe;** sisters **Virgie, Narsing, Tessie** and **Baby;** brothers **Rey, Jun, Basil, Chito** and **Jimmy,** brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nephews and nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to join them in prayer for his eternal repose in heaven.

His remains lie in state at the Holy Sepulchre Chapel, Sta. Monica Parish Church, Minalin, Pampanga.

Cremation at the Eternal Gardens Crematorium in Baesa, Quezon City, will be on Tuesday, November 29, 2005, after the 11:00 a.m. Holy Mass at the Santa Monica Parish Church.

Message of Thanks
We, the family of the late

EMILIA LORETTO VALTE INFANTADO

of Manila and San Rafael, Bulacan
January 25, 1925 – November 6, 2005

wish to express our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all those who condoled with us in our time of sorrow with their presence, prayers, messages of sympathy; those who sent flowers and who in countless ways helped us.

Your expressions of love and concern continue to comfort and console us.

ATTY. PROSPERO A. CRESCINI

Peacefully joined our Creator
on November 24, 2005
at the age of 75.

His loving wife **Lita;** children and children-in-law **Ding, Gener & Rose, Lito & Elvie, Ñoño & Suzie, Bea, Chie, Andrew & Cato** and only daughter **Cathy;** grandchildren **Charmagne, Nicolai, Joshua, Jay-Jay, Jonah, Edrich, Jericho, Nikki & Cheska** request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapel, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City on November 29, 2005 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

In lieu of flowers, your generosity to The Little Shepherds, Inc. will be deeply appreciated.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
1. Copy of Death Certificate
2. Any identification document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY
REQUIEMS

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS and bank-to-bank payments

So Lovingly Remembered
So Sadly Missed

Our Beloved

Lourdes Syjuco Angeles

on the day of the 10th Anniversary
of her Birth to Eternal Life
November 28, 1995

HER HUSBAND GIL TOGETHER WITH THEIR CHILDREN, GRANDCHILDREN AND GREAT GRANDCHILD REQUEST RELATIVES, FRIENDS, AND PIOUS READERS TO PRAY FOR THE ETERNAL REPOSE OF HER SOUL.

Masses will be celebrated at:

on NOVEMBER 28, 2005

SAN FERNANDO DE DILAO PARISH, Paco	7:00 AM
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL PARISH, San Marcelino	5:10 AM
STA. MARIA GORETTI PARISH, Pius	12:10 NOON
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH, San Agustin	6:30 AM
MINOR BASILICA OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, Manila Cathedral	7:30 AM
FRANCISCAN FATHERS, Forbes, Makati	12:15 NOON
NATIONAL SHRINE OF THE SACRED HEART, Kamagong	6:00 PM
ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST, Tanauan	6:15 AM

on NOVEMBER 29, 2005

OUR LADY OF REMEDIES PARISH, Malate Church	6:00 PM

The Missionary Sisters
Servants of the Holy Spirit
Announce the death of

SISTER INESMARIA, S.Sp.S.
(ESTER P. CASTRO)

on November 26, 2005 at the age of 94
at the Convent of the Holy Spirit, 8 Poinsettia Road, Quezon City.

Mass of the Resurrection will be offered on November 29, 2005 at 9:00 A.M. at the Convent of the Holy Spirit 8 Poinsettia Road, Quezon City.

Interment will follow at the Christ the King Cemetery E. Rodriguez Ave., Quezon City.

The bereaved family members of the late

Modesty Ranada Agcaoili

of Laoag City, Ilocos Norte
(April 30, 1943 – October 20, 2005)

wish to express their heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to relatives and friends who have extended their sympathy and support, sent flowers, and kept vigil during their time of bereavement.

Holy Masses will be said for the eternal repose of **MODESTY** on November 28, 2005 at the following churches:

St. William's Cathedral; Mount Carmel Church; St. John Vianney Church; Christ the King Church in Proj. 7; Christ the King Greenmeadows; Our Lady of Hope Church; Church of the Holy Sacrifice; Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament; St. Basil Church in L.A.; and St. Bridget's Church in London.

Message of Thanks
We, the family of the late

Judge FELIX A. RIVERA

Former Mayor of Bacarra, Ilocos Norte
UP Law Class 1937

Who passed away in the Grace of our Lord on October 28, 2005

wish to express our deepest gratitude and sincere appreciation to all who offered masses and prayers, sent flowers and messages of sympathy and who in countless ways condoled with and comforted us in our days of bereavement.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."
John 3:16

"You will forever be in our hearts"

Pablo T. Canlas

August 19, 1933 – November 24, 2005

Peacefully joined his Creator at the age of 72.

His remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Chapel 15, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

He will be laid to rest at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City, Wednesday, November 30, 2005 at 3:00 p.m.

"For all things work together for good to them that love God..." (Rom 8:28)

I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.
John 14:6

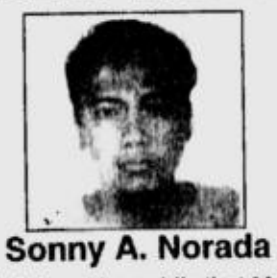
Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. Matthew 10:39

CLASSIFIEDS

Forum on labor relations

THE PHILIPPINE Industrial Relations Society will conduct a forum entitled "An Update on the State of Philippine Labor/ Industrial Relations" on Nov. 29, 2005 (Tues.), starting at 1:00 PM. This will be held at the University of the Philippines' School of Labor and Industrial Relations (UP SOLAIR), Bonifacio Hall, Diliman, QC. For registration and query, please contact Eileen @ Tel. 942-7833 or email to pirs_forum@yahoo.com

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

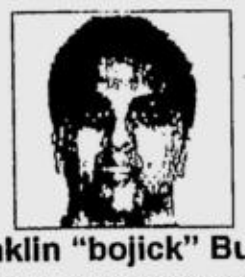


Sonny A. Norada

This is to inform the public that Mr. Sonny A. Norada is no longer connected to Manila Overseas, Inc. Any transactions entered to him starting Oct. 07, 2005 is considered null & void and will never entertain in behalf of MOI management.

(PDI--Nov. 27, 2005)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

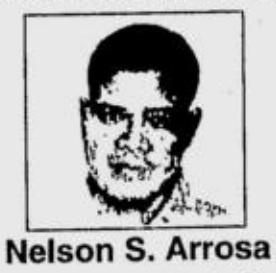


Franklin "bojick" Busico

This is to inform the public that Mr. Franklin Busico is no longer connected to Manila Overseas, Inc. Any transactions entered to him starting Sept. 24, 2005 is considered null & void and will never entertain in behalf of MOI management.

(PDI--Nov. 27, 2005)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



Nelson S. Arrosa

This is to inform the public that Mr. Nelson S. Arrosa is no longer connected to Manila Overseas, Inc. Any transactions entered to him starting Oct. 16, 2005 is considered null & void and will never entertain in behalf of MOI management.

(PDI--Nov. 27, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
National Economic and Development Authority
Caraga Regional Office
Nimfa Tiu Bldg., J. Rosales Ave., Butuan City
Telefax No. (085) 342-5613, (085) 341-7685
Email add: cfsp_neda@caraga.bayandsl.ph

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Contract No. FLGC-05-002

Name of Contract	:	Construction of Farm Level Grains Center (FLGC)
Location	:	Brgy. Abilan, Buenavista, Agusan del Norte
Brief Desciption	:	A Grains Center comprising of a Warehouse, Husk Tank, Solar Dryer and Perimeter Fence
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	:	Five Million Seven Hundred Sixty Thousand Ninety-Six Pesos and 40/100 (Php 5,760,096.40)
Contract Duration	:	One Hundred Forty Nine (149) Days

The National Economic and Development Authority, Caraga Regional Office (NEDA Caraga), through a Grant per Memorandum of Agreement with Agencia Española de Cooperacion Internacional (AECI) for the implementation of the Caraga Food Sufficiently Project, Phase II, intends to apply the above specified amount being the Approved Budget for the Contract.

NEDA Caraga now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs) from potential bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the construction of the Buenavista FLGC.

Bidders should possess a valid Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) license applicable to the above type and cost of the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least (50%) of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Document.

Applicants must submit their LOIs on or before 9:00 AM of December 19, 2005 at NEDA Caraga Regional Office and secure the Eligibility Documents therefrom upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Three Hundred Pesos (Php 300.00). Applicants shall submit their accomplished Eligibility Documents to the BAC Secretariat at the NEDA Caraga Regional Office on or before 12:00 noon of December 19, 2005, where opening of Eligibility Documents will follow on the same day at 2:00 PM. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis.

NEDA Caraga will notify applicants on the result of evaluation of the Eligibility Documents on December 20, 2005 and issue Bid Documents to eligible bidders on the same date.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as prescribed in the Implementing Rules and Regulations. Part A (IRR-A), of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines.

Only those bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Documents.

A complete set of Bid Documents may be purchased by eligible bidders at a nonrefundable fee of Three Thousand Two Hundred Pesos (Php 3,200.00) upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat. The Bidding Documents shall be purchased personally by the duly authorized representative of the bidders not later than 9:00 AM of December 23, 2005.

NEDA Caraga will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all eligible bidders at 10:00 AM of December 28, 2005 at NEDA Caraga Regional Office.

Bidders must submit their bids to NEDA Caraga on or before 12:00 noon of January 9, 2006. Each bid must be accompanied by a bid security in the form of a Bank Guarantee and in the amount of Eighty-Six Thousand Four Hundred One Pesos and 45/100 (Php 86,401.45) or equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall be on January 9, 2006, 3:00 PM at NEDA Caraga Regional Office. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend the bid opening. Only bids from eligible bidders will be opened. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening. A contract will be awarded only to the lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder determined as such during post-qualification.

Completion of the Works is required by the end of One Hundred Forty-Nine (149) Calendar Days.

NEDA Caraga reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

(Sgd.) **JOHNNY T. LIM**
BAC Chairperson

(PDI - Nov. 27 & Dec. 4, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Office of the President
Metro Manila Development Authority
PASIG RIVER REHABILITATION COMMISSION

Project	:	Pasig River Environmental Management and Rehabilitation Sector Development Program (PAREMAR)
Loan No.	:	Asian Development Bank (ADB) Loan No. 1746-PHI
Description of Works	:	**Design, and construction of 728-units multi-storey socialized housing in Cardinal Sin Village, Punta Sta. Ana, Manila**

1. The Government of the Philippines (GOP) has received a loan from the ADB toward the cost of PAREMAR and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan, together with the GOP counterpart funds, to payments under the Contract for Punta Sta. Ana URA Project in Cardinal Sin Village, Punta Sta. Ana, City of Manila
2. The Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC) as the executing agency now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the following contract packages:

Contract Package	Design, Site Development and Construction of 728-Units Multi-Storey Socialized Housing Project
Contract No.	URA-MLA-02A
Location	Cardinal Sin Village, Punta Sta. Ana, Manila
Contract Duration	360 Calendar Days
Project Description	Design, site development and construction of 728-units multi-storey socialized housing which include the following items of work: architectural works, structural works, electrical works, carpentry works, painting works, sanitary/plumbing works, water supply, site work, site improvement and drainage work, among others.

3. Proposals will be accepted from licensed private contractors, GOP enterprises the majority of which is publicly-owned, and non-government organizations (NGOs) with demonstrated track record in the development of sustainable communities including social preparation, design and construction of socialized/low-cost housing units employing community-participation and post-relocation capability-building activities. Licensed private contractors and NGOs could submit proposals either as individual bidders, individual bidders with subcontractors or as joint ventures. Interested Bidders shall secure the Bid Documents and submit bids as follows:

ACTIVITY	DATE	TIME	VENUE
Securing of (a) Eligibility Checklist or (B) submission of Letter of Intent and purchase complete set of Bidding Documents upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php 10,500.00	From Nov. 29 to Dec. 06 2005	From 9:00 a.m to 3:00 p.m.	PRRC, 2/F MWSS Engineering Bldg., Katipunan Road, Old Balara, Quezon City
Securing of additional eligibility information (if any) and Inspection of Bidding Documents	From Nov. 29 to Dec. 06, 2005	From 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.	
Site Inspection	Dec. 13, 2005	10:00 a.m.	Cardinal Sin Village, Punta Sta. Ana, City of Manila
Pre-Bid Conference	Dec. 13, 2005	2:00 p.m.	PRRC, 2/F MWSS Engineering Bldg., Katipunan Road, Old Balara, Quezon City
Deadline for Submission of Bids	Feb. 03, 2006	10:00 a.m.	PRRC, 2/F MWSS Engineering Bldg., Katipunan Road, Old Balara, Quezon City
Opening of Bids	Feb. 03, 2006	10:30 a.m.	PRRC, 2/F MWSS Engineering Bldg., Katipunan Road, Old Balara, Quezon City

4. The PRRC shall be the implementing agency of the Project.
5. Bidding (Eligibility Check/Prequalification, Bid Evaluation and Award of Contract) shall be conducted on the basis of local competitive bidding among interested Bidders from ADB eligible source countries as defined under the *"Guidelines for Procurement by the Asian Development Bank and its Borrowers"* pursuant to the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. No. 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," to the extent it is consistent with Asian Development Bank's procedures.
6. PRRC-IABAC reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at anytime prior to Contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) BINGLE H.B. GUTIERREZ
Executive Director

Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission
2/F, MWSS Engineering Bldg., Katipunan Road, Old Balara, Quezon City 1105
Email Address: prrc@tri-isys.com

(PDI – Nov. 20 & 27, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
National Irrigation Administration Regional Office No. 10
Cagayan de Oro City, Misamis Oriental
OFFICE OF THE BAC CHAIRMAN
Second Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project
(ARCDP II)

INVITATION TO BID

November 27, 2005
World Bank/IBRD
Loan. No. 7152-PH

The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from International Bank for Reconstruction and Development towards the cost of the Second Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project (ARCDPII) and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the following contract located at GADAKINSUR ARC, Municipality of Clarin, Province of Misamis Occidental. The Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines. Procurement under IBRD Loan and IDA Credits.

The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) through the NIA Regional Irrigation Office No. 10, Cagayan de Oro City, implementing partner of Department of Agrarian Reform for ARCDPII invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Construction of Gadakinsur Communal Irrigation Project under Contract No. RIIRR 05 129 02 GAD-MO

Contract Package No. I
Project Duration : 270 Calendar Days
Bidding Documents : PhP 7,500.00
Minimum Bid Security : Php 180,000.00
Bid Closing Date : December 29, 2005 @ 2:00 PM

DESCRIPTION OF WORKS:

A. CONTRACT PACKAGE – I : Construction of Diversion Dam and Main Canal Sta 3+395 to Sta 7+661.8 and portion of Lateral A

	WORK ITEMS	Unit	Quantity
I.	DIVERSION WORKS		
100	Temp Works and Move-in and Move-Out	ls	1.00
200	Clearing and Grubbing	sq.m.	1,072.00
300	Diversion and Care of River	ls	1.00
600	Structure Excavation	cu.m.	590.00
1700	3000 psi Reinforced Concrete	cu.m	223.00
2300	Reinforcing Steel Bars		
	a. Furnishing of Materials	kg.	11,150.00
	b. Cut, Bend & Placement	kg.	11,150.00
1900	Rubble Masonry	cu.m.	290.00
1200	Structure Backfill	cu.m.	177.00
3500	Trash Rack	assy.	1.00
II.	ACCESS ROAD		
200	Clearing and Grubbing	sq.m.	3,840.00
1400	Road Surfacing with Gravelling	cu.m.	480.00
III.	CANALIZATION and CANAL STRUCTURES		
200	Clearing and Grubbing	sq.m.	9,151.00
400	Common Excavation	cu.m.	957.00
1700	2400 psi Plain Concrete	cu.m.	268.00
2800	Gravel Blanket	cu.m	117.00
600	Structure Excavation	cu.m.	1,616.00
1700	3000 psi Reinforced Concrete (Ordinary Structures)	cu.m.	434.00
1700	3000 psi Reinforced Concrete (Elevated Flume)	cu.m.	69.00
2300	Reinforcing Steel Bars		
	a. Furnishing of Materials	kg.	25,973.00
	b. Cut, Bend & Placement	kg.	25,973.00
2400	Fabrication and Installation of 18" dia RCP	pcs.	12.00
2400	Fabrication and Installation of 24" dia RCP	pcs.	24.00
2400	Fabrication and Installation of 30" dia RCP	pcs.	14.00
1200	Structure Backfill	cu.m.	853.00
2100	Rubber Water Seal	lin.m.	97.00

Minimum Equipments Required (Contract Package-I)

Dam. Bulldozer, 160 hp (1 unit)- owned. Hydraulic Excavator, .75 cu.m. (1 unit) – owned, Dump Trucks 4-6 cu.m (2 units) owned, Vibratory Plate Compactor (2 units) – owned, 1-Bagger Concrete Mixer (3 units) - owned, Concrete Vibrator (3 units) – owned, 4" ø dewatering pumps (3 units) - owned, Bar Cutter (1 unit) owned

Canal System. Dump Trucks, 4-6 cu.m (2 units), owned, Hydraulic Excavator, .75 cu.m. (1 unit), 1-Bagger Concrete Mixer (3 units) - owned, Concrete Vibrator (3 units) – owned, Bar Cutter (2 units) owned, Vibratory Plate Compactor (3 units) – owned, Survey Instruments (1 unit), owned or leased.

Contract Package No. II
Project Duration : 180 Calendar Days
Bidding Documents : PhP 7,500.00
Minimum Bid Security : Php 250,000.00
Bid Closing Date : December 29, 2005 @ 2:00 P.M.

B. CONTRACT PACKAGE – II: Construction of Main Canal from Sta 0+000 to Sta 3+395

	Work Items	Unit	Quantity
I.	CANALIZATION		
600	Structure Excavation	cu.m.	613.00
2800	Gravel Blanket	cu.m.	429.00
1700	3000 psi Reinforced Concrete (Ordinary Structure)	cu.m.	1,398.00
2300	Reinforcing Steel Bars		
	a. Furnishing of Materials	kg.	69,440.00
	b. Cut, Bend & Placement	kg.	69,440.00
1200	Structure Backfill	cu.m.	230.00
1300	E.C.C. from Haul Borrow	cu.m.	3,329.00
	Removal of 36" dia RCP	pcs.	34.00
1600	Concrete Demolition	cu.m.	52.00
	Removal of Grouted Riprap	cu.m.	126.00
3300	Furnish/Install Steel Gates	Assy.	3.00
2100	Rubber Water Seal	lin.m.	185.00

Minimum Equipments Required (Contract Package - II)

Dump Trucks, 4.0 cu.m. (3 units)- owned. Stake Trucks (2 units) – owned. Vibratory Plate Compactors (7 units) - owned, Bulldozer, 160 hp (1 unit), owned. Wheel Loader (1 unit) owned, 1 Bagger Concrete Mixer (7 units) - owned Concrete Vibrators (7 units) – owned, Bar Cutters (7 units) owned, survey instruments (1 unit) - leased/owned.

A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by the interested bidders at the BAC Secretariat Office NIA Regional Office No. 10, Cagayan de Oro City, Misamis Oriental and at the BAC Sub-office at the Misamis Occidental Provincial Irrigation Office, Oroquieta City, Misamis Occidental starting November 28, 2005 from 8:00A.M to 5:00P.M upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PhP 7,500.00 for each set. A pre-bid conference will be held at the Municipal Hall of the Municipality of Clarin, Misamis Occidental on December 15, 2005 at 10:00 AM.

Bids shall be valid for a period of 90 days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by a Bid Security of PhP 180,000.00 and Php 250,000.00 for Contract Package – I and II, respectively, in the form of Cash, Certified Check, Manager's Check, Bank Guarantee, on a freely convertible currency, and shall be delivered to the Regional BAC Secretariat Office at the NIA Regional Irrigation Office No. 10, Cagayan de Oro City, on or before the Bid closing date on December 29, 2005 at 2:00 PM, at which time the Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders who wish to attend.

The NIA Regional Irrigation Office 10- ARCDPII BAC, Cagayan de Oro City, Misamis Oriental reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligation whatsoever to compensate indemnity to the contractor/bidder for any expenses that they may incur in the preparation of bid and to accept the lowest evaluated, responsive and complying bid.

(Sgd.) BERNARDO S. MERCADO
Chairman, NIA RIO – 10 BAC, ARCDPII

(PDI–Nov. 27, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
National Irrigation Administration Regional Office No. 9
Zamboanga City
OFFICE OF THE BAC CHAIRMAN
Second Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project
(ARCDP II)

INVITATION TO BID

November 27, 2005
World Bank/IBRD
Loan. No. 7152-PH

The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from International Bank for Reconstruction and Development towards the cost of the Second Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project (ARCDPII) and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the following contract located at Barangay La Esperanza, Municipality of Rizal, Province of Zamboanga del Norte. The Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines. Procurement under IBRD Loan and IDA Credits.

The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) through the NIA Regional Irrigation Office No. 9, Zamboanga City, implementing partner of Department of Agrarian Reform for ARCDPII invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Rehabilitation of La Esperanza Communal Irrigation System under Contract No. RIIRR 05 128 02 LAN-ZN

Project Duration: 120 Calendar Days
Bidding Documents: PhP 6,000.00
Minimum Bid Security: Php 65,000.00
Bid Closing Date: December 29, 2005 @ 2:00 P.M.

	DESCRIPTION OF WORKS: ITEMS OF WORK	Unit	Quantity
100	MOBILIZATION/DEMOBILIZATION	l.s.	2.00
II.	DIVERSION WORKS		
a.	Upper La Esperanza		
	Desilting (mechanized)	cu.m.	96.00
2700	Grouted Boulder Riprap	cu.m.	38.40
3300	Fab & Inst'n of Intake Steel Gate	unit	1.00
b.	Lower La Esperanza		
1700	3000 psi Reinforced Concrete	cu.m.	56.00
1600	Demolition of Concrete	cu.m.	0.50
1900	Rubble Masonry	cu.m.	59.33
2500	Boulder Riprap	cu.m.	98.14
2900	Filter Drain	cu.m.	2.50
2800	Gravel Blanket	cu.m.	29.52
300	Cofferdamming	l.s.	258.30
200	Clearing & Grubbing	sq.m.	520.00
600	Structure Excav (Mech. w/Dewatering)	cu.m.	381.00
1200	Structural Backfill (Mechanized)	cu.m.	959.00
3300	Fabrication & Inst'l. of Intake Steel Gate	l.s.	1.00
	Stop Log	l.s.	7.00
600	Structure Excav (Man. w/out Dwtg.)	cu.m.	40.00
III.	CANALIZATION		
400	Common Excavation (Manual)	cu.m.	372.40
1700	3000 PSI Reinforced Concrete	cu.m.	12.30
4100	4"thk CHB	sq.m.	126.50
1700	2400 PSI Plain Concrete	cu.m.	203.57
1200	Common Backfill (Manual)	cu.m.	825.54
IV.	CANAL STRUCTURES		
1700	3000 psi Reinforced Concrete	cu.m.	21.74
1200	Structural Backfill (Manual)	cu.m.	73.39
2400	61cmØ Reinf. Conc. Pipes	lin.m.	20.00
2400	76 cmØ Reinf. Conc. Pipes	lin.m.	6.00
600	Structure Excavation (Manual)	cu.m.	45.44
	Sub-total		
V.	TERMINAL FACILITIES		
1700	3000 psi Reinforced Concrete	cu.m.	2.40
600	Structure Excavation (Manual)	cu.m.	5.68
1200	Structural Backfill (Manual)	cu.m.	2.32
800	MFD	lin.m.	250.27

Minimum Equipments Required

Hauling Truck (2 units)- owned, Hydraulic Excavator (1 unit) – owned/leased; Vibratory Plate Compactor (1 unit) – owned, 1-Bagger Concrete Mixer (3 units) - owned, Concrete Vibrator (1 unit) – owned, 4" ø water pumps (1 unit) - owned; survey instruments (1 unit) - leased/owned

A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by the interested bidders at the BAC Secretariat Office, NIA Regional Office No. 9, Zamboanga City, and at the BAC Sub-office at the Zamboanga del Norte Provincial Irrigation Office, Dipolog City, Zamboanga del Norte starting November 28, 2005 from 8:00A.M. to 5:00P.M. upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PhP 6,000.00 for each set. A pre-bid conference will be held at the Zamboanga del Norte Provincial Irrigation Office, Dipolog City, Zamboanga del Norte on December 16, 2005 at 8:30 AM.

Bids shall be valid for a period of 90 days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by a Bid Security of PhP 65,000.00 in the form of Cash, Certified Check, Manager's Check, Bank Guarantee, on a freely convertible currency, and shall be delivered to the Regional BAC Secretariat Office at the NIA Regional Irrigation Office No. 9, Zamboanga City, on or before the Bid closing date on December 29, 2005 at 2:00 PM, at which time the Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders who wish to attend.

The NIA Regional Irrigation Office 9- ARCDPII BAC, Zamboanga City, reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligation whatsoever to compensate indemnity to the contractor/bidder for any expenses that they may incur in the preparation of bid and to accept the lowest evaluated, responsive and complying bid.

(SGD) CHITA O. LIM
Chairman, NIA RIO – 9 BAC, ARCDPII

(PDI - Nov. 27, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
National Irrigation Administration Regional Office No. 2
Cauayan, Isabela
OFFICE OF THE BAC CHAIRMAN
Second Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project
(ARCDP II)

INVITATION TO BID

November 27, 2005
World Bank/IBRD
Loan No. 7152-PH

The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from International Bank for Reconstruction and Development towards the cost of Second Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project (ARCDPII) and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the following contract located at Barangay Simanu Norte, San Pablo Isabela. The Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines. Procurement under IBRD Loan and IDA Credits.

The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) through the NIA Regional Irrigation Office No. 2, implementing partner of Department of Agrarian Reform for ARCDPII invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the **Rehabilitation and Expansion of Simanu Communal Irrigation System** under Contract No. RIIRR 04 071 03 SIM-I

Project Duration: 360 Calendar Days
Bidding Documents: PhP 7,500.00
Minimum Bid Security: Php 415,000.00
Bid Closing Date: December 28, 2005 at 2:00 P.M.

DESCRIPTION OF WORKS:

Item No.		Scope of Work	Unit	Quantity
I		DAM (Repair) with Close Conduit		
	300	Care of stream	l.s.	2.00
	600	Common structure excavation (mech)	cu.m.	246.00
	600	Rock structure excavation (mech.)	cu.m.	1,488.75
	1200	Structure backfill	cu.m.	185.40
	1700	Class "A" concrete with dewatering	cu.m.	52.67
	1700	Class "A" concrete without dewatering	cu.m.	373.69
	1900	Rubble Masonry	cu.m.	672.30
	2500	Boulder Riprap	cu.m.	650.86
	1700	Plain concrete	cu.m.	287.44
	1600	Demolition of Old Concrete	cu.m.	22.50
	2800	Gravel blanket	cu.m.	148.80
II		CANALIZATION		
	400	Common earth re-excavation	cu.m.	4,337.61
	1100	Borrow haul with compaction (ECC)	cu.m.	10,200.72
	400	Common excavation (trimming)	cu.m.	2,411.00
	1700	Plain concrete	cu.m.	1,317.13
	2800	Gravel blanket	cu.m.	567.57
		PVC 1.7" diameter	pcs.	2,045.00
		Plugged end	pcs.	6,134.00
III		CANAL STRUCTURES		
A		Repair of Pipeline		
	600	Structure excavation	cu.m.	72.00
	1700	Class "A" concrete without dewatering	cu.m.	9.80
	2400	30" diameter RCP	l.m.	120.00
B		Construction of Various Canal Structures		
	600	Structure excavation	cu.m.	289.00
	1100	Borrow haul with compaction (ECC)	cu.m.	5244.00
	600	Rock structure excavation (mech)	cu.m.	420.00
	1700	Class "A" concrete with Dewatering	cu.m.	84.00
	1700	Class "A" concrete without Dewatering	cu.m.	425.97
IV.		Service Road		
A		Surfacing of Service Road		
	200	Clearing & grubbing	sq.m.	20,076.00
	1400	Road Surfacing	cu.m.	2,452.80
B		Roadway Structures		
	600	Common Struct. Excavation	cu.m.	35.00
	1700	Class "A" concrete	cu.m.	20.00
	2400	30" diameter RCP	cu.m.	40.00
V.		Construction of IA O&M Facilities	ls	1.00

Minimum Equipments Required

Dump Truck (3 units) – owned, Backhoe Excavator (2 units) - owned, Bulldozer (2 units) – owned, Road Grader (1unit) – owned/leased, Wheel Loader (2 units) – owned, 10 tons Road Roller (1 unit) – owned/leased, Vibratory Compactor (2 units) – owned, 1 Bagger Concrete Mixer (3 units) - owned, Concrete Vibrator (2 units) – owned, survey instruments and materials testing apparatus - leased/owned.

A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by the interested bidders at the BAC Secretariat Office NIA Regional Office No. 2, Cauayan City, Isabela starting November 28, 2005 from 8:00A.M. to 5:00P.M. upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PhP 7,500.00 for each set. A pre-bid conference will be held in the same address on November 12, 2005 at 10:00 AM.

Bids shall be valid for a period of 90 days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by a security deposit of PhP 415,000.00 in the form of Cash, Certified Check, Manager's Check, Bank Guarantee, on a freely convertible currency, and shall be delivered to the BAC Secretariat Office NIA Regional Irrigation Office No. 2 Cauayan City, Isabela on or before the Bid closing date on December 28, 2005 at 2:00 PM, at which time the Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders who wish to attend.

The NIA Regional Irrigation Office 2 - ARCDPII BAC, Cauayan City, Isabela, reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligation whatsoever to compensate indemnity to the contractor/bidder for any expenses that they may incur in the preparation of bid and to accept the lowest evaluated, responsive and complying bid.

(SGD) FLORENCIO B. SOLIVEN
Chairman, NIA RIO-2 BAC, ARCDPII

(PDI--Nov. 27, 2005)

Nestlé Philippines, Inc.

Notice is given that Official Receipts Nos. 2665901 – 2665950 has been reported lost since 26 October 2005. Any transaction entered into using these documents shall not be honored by the Company.

(PDI – Nov. 13, 20 & 27, 2005)

HOME GUARANTY CORPORATION

NOTICE

The **Home Guaranty Corporation** is offering for Long Term Sub-Lease or Sale of Leasehold Rights the property described as follows:

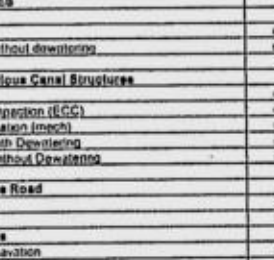
PROJECT NAME	:	**MONUMENTO PLAZA SEVEN STOREY MALL**
LOCATION	:	OLD VICTORY COMPOUND KALOOCAN CITY
TOTAL FLOOR AREA	:	34,449.61 sq.ms.
TOTAL COMMITTED/SOLD	:	9,723.22 sq.ms.
REMAINING LEASABLE AREA	:	24,726.39 sq.ms.
REMAINING TERM OF LEASE	:	19 YEARS

All interested lessees/buyers are advised to inspect the property for lease/sale to see for themselves its actual condition. The Terms of Reference and other relevant documents may be obtained for a fee of P50,000.00 from HGC, Project Management and Acquired Asset Disposition Group at the 4th Floor, 335 Jade Bldg., Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City or call 895-6250 / 897-3224 / 897-3149.

CORAZON G. CORPUZ
Vice President
Finance Group

(PDI - Nov 19 & 27, 2005)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



Dianne Castillo

The public is hereby informed that Dianne Castillo ceased her employment with MACHIDA TRAVEL & TOURS effective September 30, 2005 due to serious misconduct.

Any transactions made through him in behalf of the company will not be honored.

(PDI - Nov. 27, 2005)

A Gift that Brings a Whole City at Your Door

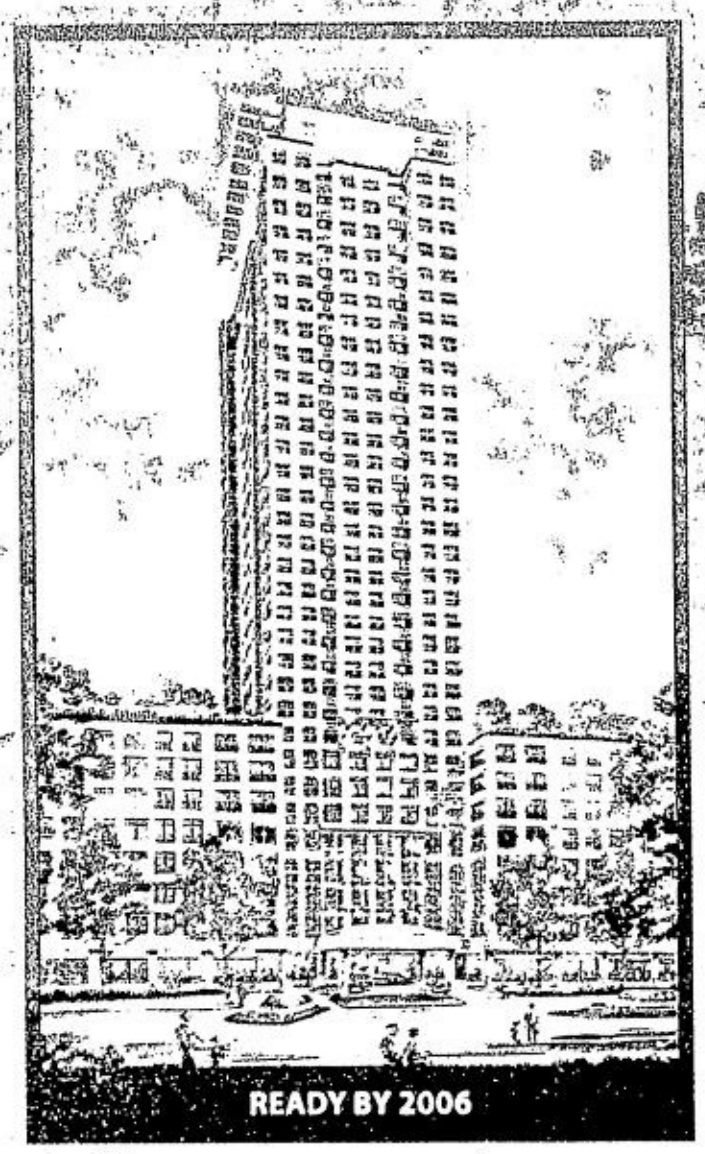
This Christmas, give your family the perfect gift: a home at One Orchard Road, The Grand Eastwood Palazzo or One Central Park. Give your loved ones the key not just to their dream home. But also to an exciting cosmopolitan lifestyle they can enjoy all year round. Make every day a holiday to celebrate only at Eastwood City.

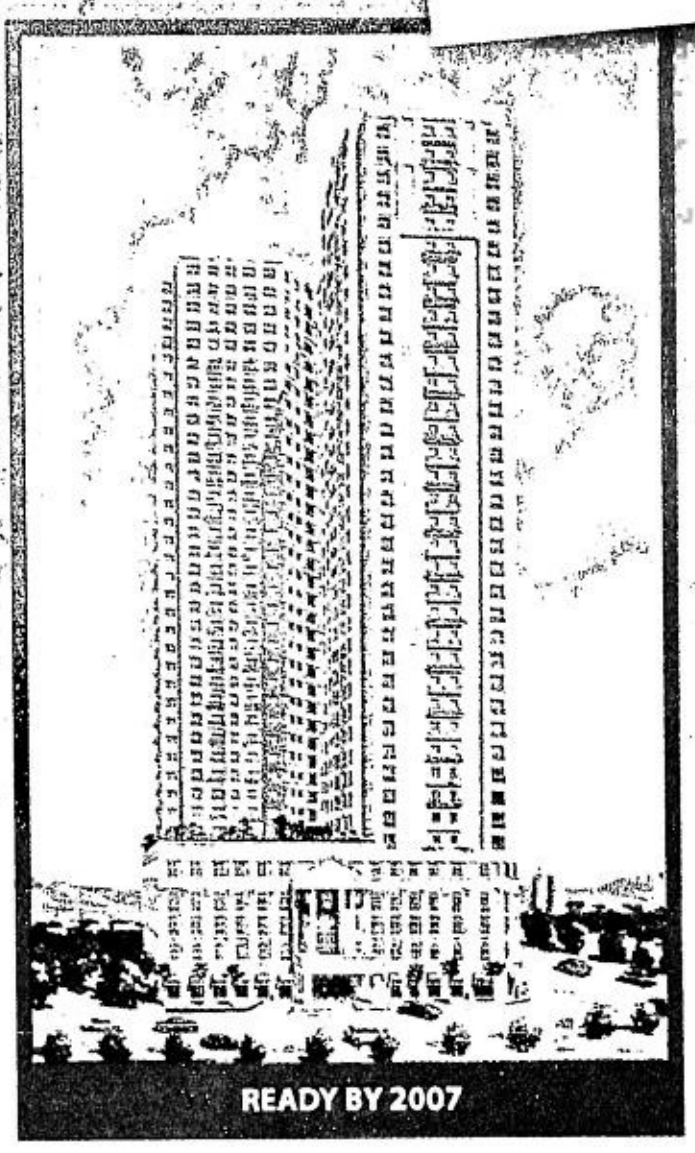
Dear Hon,

Remember the time I promised you the world? Well, I can't afford it yet in time for Christmas, but how does a City sound? Yes, a whole City! Because I am buying us a home at Eastwood City! It comes giftwrapped with a strip of chic cafés, shops, restaurants, cinemas, parks and a cluster of high-tech office towers, too. It will be a whole new lifestyle for us. Imagine how easy it will be to have all our needs just around us. And how amazing it will be to call an entire city our home. Just thinking about it makes me forget how far away I am right now. But don't worry, I'll be home for Christmas.

P.S.
Tell the kids Daddy can't wait to see them.

With lots of love,
Dad





One Orchard Road

Contemporary homes ranging from cozy executive studios to lavish three-bedroom suites in three towers. With an array of deluxe amenities such as an indoor spa and sauna, tropical gardens at the 6th floor podium deck and a commercial arcade at the ground level.

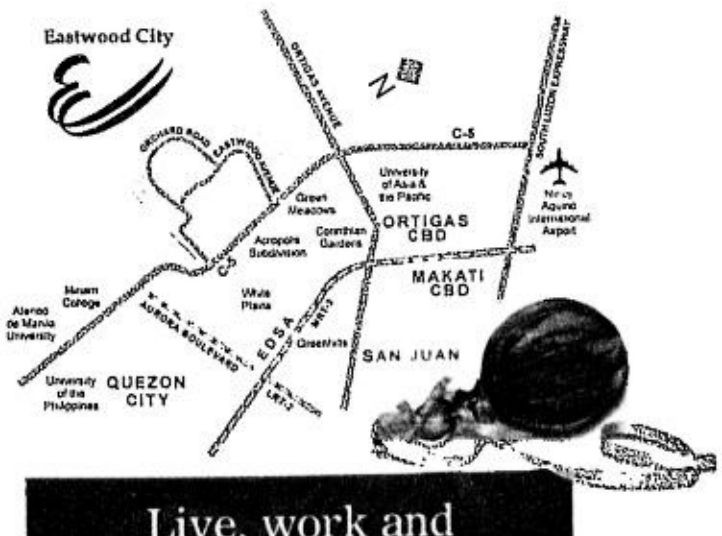
THE GRAND EASTWOOD PALAZZO

Enjoy royal privileges in a European-inspired executive studio or one- to four-bedroom residence. Sit back and unwind at the library/lounge area. Or luxuriate in a slew of resort-style leisure amenities at the 6th floor play deck: Roman-inspired pool, sunbathing lounges, poolside cabana, gazebo spa, children's play area and landscaped gardens.

One Central Park

Luxury Residences at Eastwood City

Live atop a four-story mall with boutiques, restaurants, cinemas and gaming arcades in an executive studio or one- to three-bedroom suite. Just an elevator ride away from the 5th floor play deck and an outdoor landscaped park with a lagoon.



Live, work and pamper yourself in your very own City. For as low as US$300 a month.

LICENSE TO SELL NOS. 07191, 08127 & 10440

Visit the Eastwood City Grand Showroom today.

Eastwood City Information Centre/Grand Showroom, Eastwood City, E. Rodriguez, Jr. Ave. (C-5), Quezon City

For inquiries, call (632) 421-4243 or 421-4247

Or text GLOBE 0917-805-3333 · SMART 0920-945-8888

Eastwood City

A MEGAWORLD DEVELOPMENT

Exclusive Marketing Arm:

Eastwood Property Holdings, Inc.

www.eastwood-properties.com

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2005

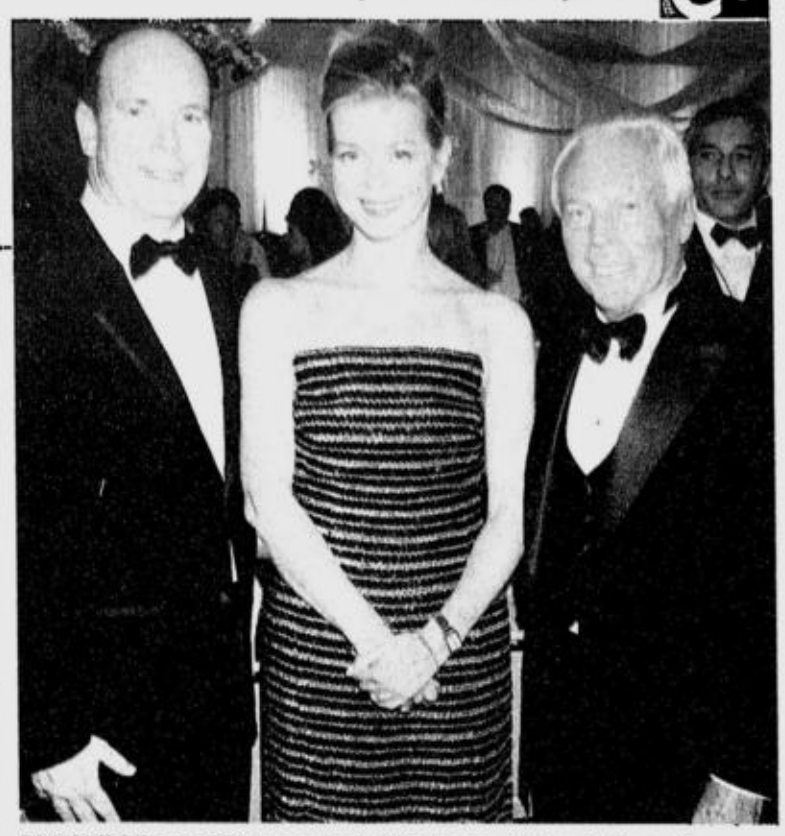
C1

sms feedback: inquirer life name/age/city /message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart) or email us at pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

Sunday LIFESTYLE

JON Bon Jovi



PRINCE Albert of Monaco, Lady Windsor and Giorgio Armani

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

Crystal glitters and social sparklers in Monaco

EVERY TWO YEARS, MONTE Carlo throws a big exclusive party, the Prince's Trust Ball, which is a fundraiser for the Prince's Trust Foundation headlined by Prince Charles.

T'NT TRENDS & TRENDINGS

Anton San Diego

The Prince's Trust Foundation is a UK-based charity that seeks to help young people (ages 14-30) overcome barriers in their life via training, mentoring and financial assistance.

The recent three-day event had so many highlights I'm not sure where to start. Here's a sample: Helicopter ride from Nice to Monte Carlo, a three-night stay at über-luxe hotel L'Hermitage, lunch at a massive yacht where Jon Bon Jovi was staying and where celebrities as well as noteworthy fashion personalities popped in for the lunch—Vivienne Westwood, Tommy Hilfiger, Victor & Rolf, and Il Divo, to name a few.

When the hosts said the super yacht's rent was $120,000 a day, I almost fell off the couch. I asked who rented it besides rock stars. "Russians and Saudi Arabian royalty," came the answer. One sheik reportedly rented it for more than a month. He could have easily bought the ship, but was just content to rent it.

And this is the whole spirit of Monte Carlo, the Disneyland for the wealthy, where 20-year-olds drive around in their Maseratis, and older types guzzle champagne like it's water.

At lunch, I saw Jon Bon Jovi , Richie Sambora and Tommy Hilfiger talking, so I introduced myself to see if I could make conversation. (In my mind I was thinking, "What do these famous people talk about?").

I came in at mid-sentence as Bon Jovi was asking Tommy Hilfiger, "How is your place in the Hamptons?" The line hit me like a splash of cold water. I immediately sat down after hearing that. Way too much out of my league!

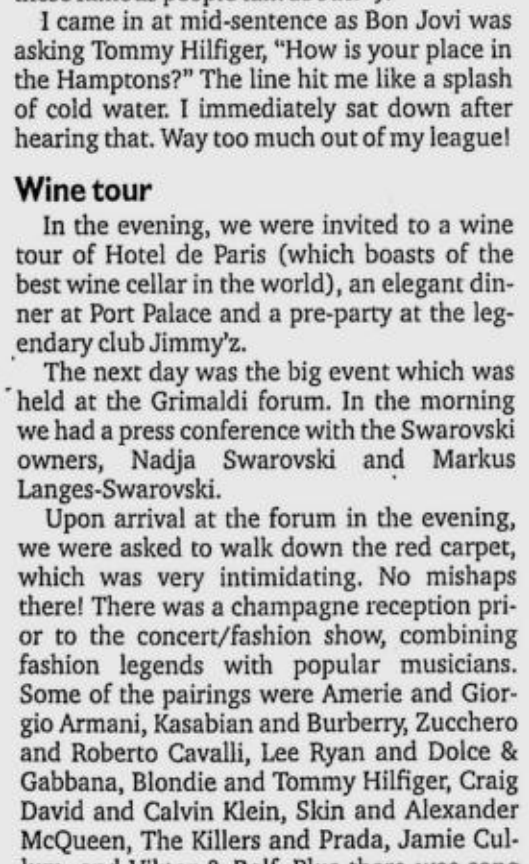
Wine tour

In the evening, we were invited to a wine tour of Hotel de Paris (which boasts of the best wine cellar in the world), an elegant dinner at Port Palace and a pre-party at the legendary club Jimmy'z.

The next day was the big event which was held at the Grimaldi forum. In the morning we had a press conference with the Swarovski owners, Nadja Swarovski and Markus Langes-Swarovski.

Upon arrival at the forum in the evening, we were asked to walk down the red carpet, which was very intimidating. No mishaps there! There was a champagne reception prior to the concert/fashion show, combining fashion legends with popular musicians. Some of the pairings were Amerie and Giorgio Armani, Kasabian and Burberry, Zucchero and Roberto Cavalli, Lee Ryan and Dolce & Gabbana, Blondie and Tommy Hilfiger, Craig David and Calvin Klein, Skin and Alexander McQueen, The Killers and Prada, Jamie Cullum, and Viktor & Rolf. Plus there was song

CRYSTAL/ C2



THE OSBOURNES

BDO Credit Cards and MERALCO
may liwanag ang buhay

invite you to meet your winning home partner

Welcome the new
HOME MasterCard
your suitable partner to take charge
of your life's most basic needs –
your home and your family.

Experience a great life
with these attractive benefits...

MORE VALUE FOR YOUR MONEY!
- **FREE** Personal or Family Accident Insurance worth **up to P1 Million***
- Exclusive **1% Cash Rebate** for all Meralco Auto-Charged transactions

IDEAL FOR A PRACTICAL LIFESTYLE!
- Low Interest Rate of **3%**
- Up to **50%** Cash Advance Limit*
- **HOMEstretch** Installment Payment Programs
- Various Promos, Discounts and Perks

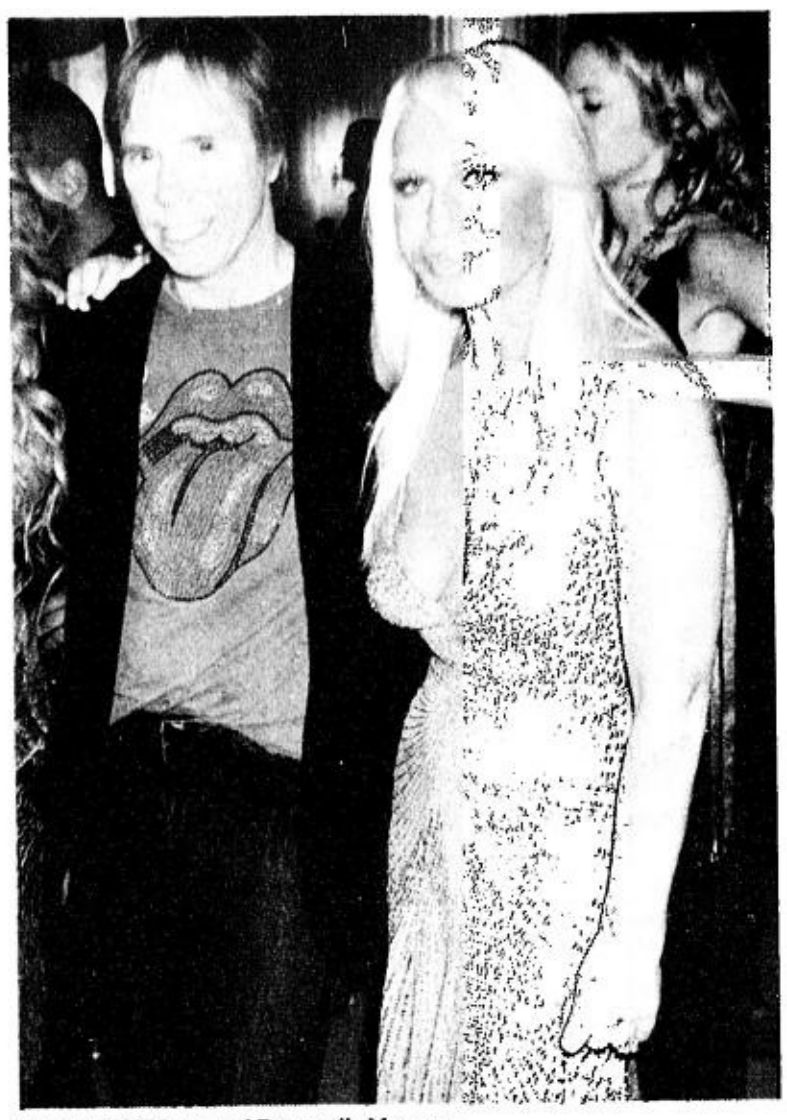
CONVENIENCE WITHIN YOUR REACH!
- **HOMEbills** Payment Facility (through auto-charge or charge on demand)
- **24/7** Customer Service
- Accepted Worldwide

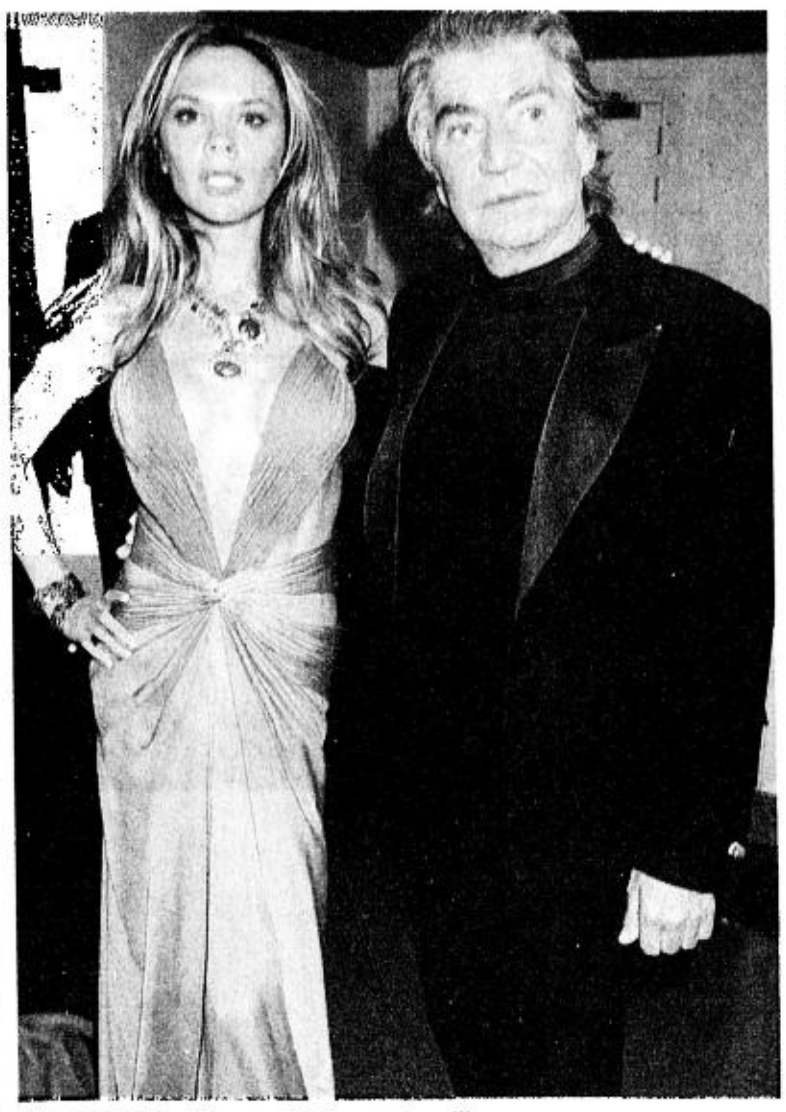
FREE Membership Fee for the 1st Year!

Be a part of the winning partnership. Get a HOME MasterCard today!
Contact the BDO Call Center at **631-8000** or visit
www.homecreditcard.com.ph for more details.

*Terms and conditions apply. See separate flyer or application form for details

HOME MasterCard
Where GREAT life begins!


TOMMY Hilfiger and Donatella Versace


VICTORIA Beckham and Roberto Cavalli

JERRY Hall

NADJA Swarovski

ANDREA and Mai Mai Cojuangco Zini

Crystal glitters and social sparklers in Monaco

From page C1

from the pop opera group, Il Divo.

In the audience, I spotted two women who were fashion opposites, but who were both simply stunning. Lady Helen Taylor Kent, Armani's muse, was elegant in, of course, Armani. Victoria Beckham, who must have been the sexiest woman in the room, was wearing Roberto Cavalli. (Mariah Carey looked like a nursing mother next to her!)

A pleasant surprise was seeing Mai Mai Cojuangco-Zini and husband Andrea at the concert.

The event's hosts were actor Jeremy Irons and supermodel Jerry Hall. Prince Albert welcomed the guests with a speech. But the person who stole the thunder from such stellar luminaries was Sharon Osbourne. She went onstage wearing a bosom-baring Vivienne Westwood number and then addressed Prince Albert, saying, "Your Highness, I have the right woman for you and she does not need your money because she has her own. May I present to you my daughter, Kelly Osbourne."

VIKTOR and Rolf

Dramatic setting

There were over five tons of Swarovski crystals used for the whole event, from the red carpet, catwalk and curtains to the dining room décor and the dresses used by the designers. After the concert, dinner was served in the Forum at the Espace Ravel with revered three-Michelin star French chef Alain Ducasse executing the menu.

Dutch designer Tord Boontje did the dramatic setting of the ballroom, which featured ice-crystal chandeliers.

An after-party ensued at the Grimaldi forum's roof terrace club, which saw the celebrities partying with the guests who forked over 2,000 euros for the event.

There were over 70 international press people invited to the event, and I was honored to represent the Philippines. Swarovski Fashion Rocks for the Prince's Trust Ball was such a momentous event. It ranks in my book as one of the top 10 international events of the year.

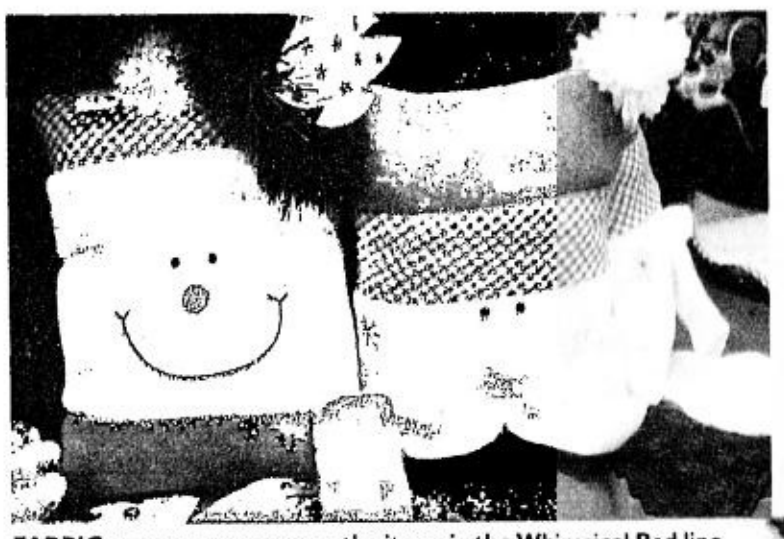
Catch the show on Star World this December, and I am sure it will rock your world, too, as it did mine!

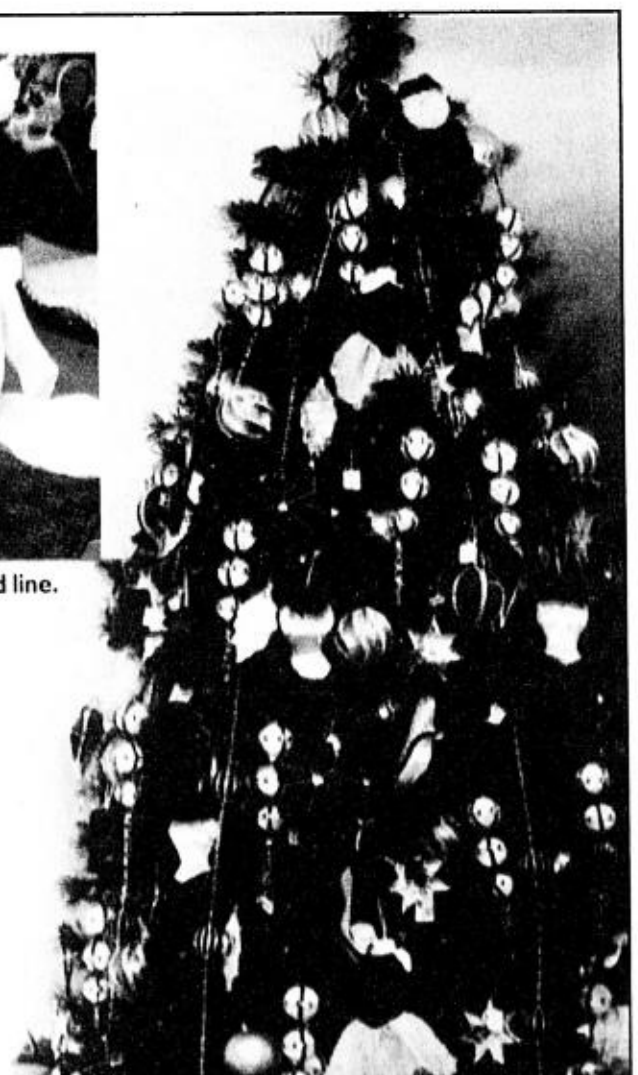
E-mail the author at antonsd@philtatler.com

IL DIVO with the author

RUSTAN'S Home offers both traditional and avant garde decor for the holidays.

FOR THE FASHIONISTA, cool ornaments include high-heeled shoes, cocktail dresses, feathers and mirrors.


FABRIC snowmen are among the items in the Whimsical Red line.



Stylish Christmas

RUSTAN'S DEPARTMENT STORE offers both traditional and new Christmas decor.

Rustan's Home opens the Christmas Shop. Shoppers may find everything to dress their houses with.

A Magical Christmas awaits homemakers who appreciate the panache of silver, white and iridescent ornaments. Tree embellishments like jesters, snowflakes, crystals and butterflies are available.

The Whimsical Red line is a happy combination of elves, monkeys, carrot-nosed snowmen, dogs and shimmering stars in felt fabric.

Traditional Red & Pewter, meanwhile, exudes formality and seriousness. It complements silverware, china and crystal glasses. Berries set off the pewter and silver ornaments for that homey experience.

Opulence features angels in gold, cream and copper. This assortment harmonizes well with native materials such as *capiz*, pearls and metal curios.

Available only at the Makati, Shangri-La and Alabang branches of Rustan's is the Funky Bright range. A striking white tree melds with knick-knacks basking in the boldness of fuchsia, aqua, yellow and orange.

Exclusive to the Makati store is Rustan's limited-edition Black Christmas. A black tree is accented by elegant black, pink and silver ornaments, a classic conversational piece of any holiday gathering.

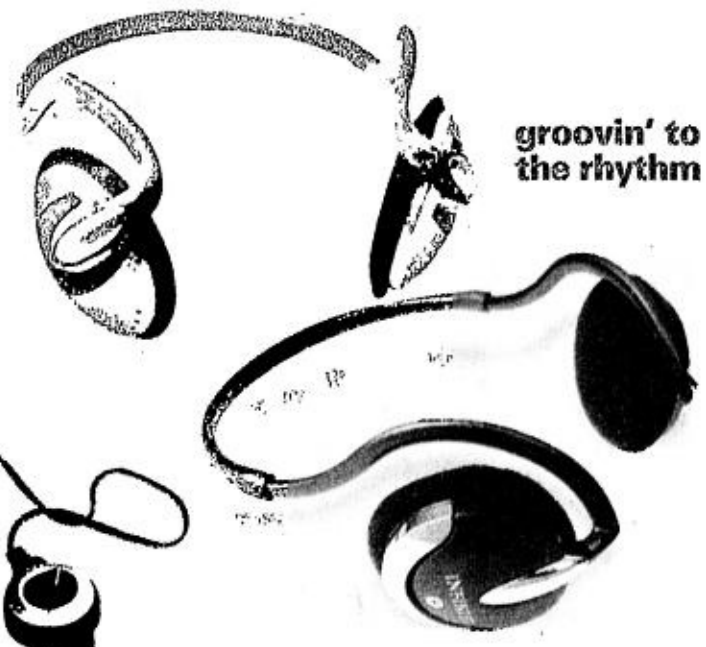
The line also offers entertaining and cool ornaments like high-heeled shoes, cocktail dresses, feathers and mirrors. Small countertop trees with crystals and hanging iron ornate balls complete the stylish range.

Rustan's Christmas Shops are in Rustan's Makati, Shangri-La, Alabang, Gateway, Robinson's Place, Harrison Plaza and Cebu.

EMBELLISH your tree with jesters, snowflakes, crystals and butterflies for a change.

SILVER, white and iridescent ornaments make for a Magical Christmas.

SM

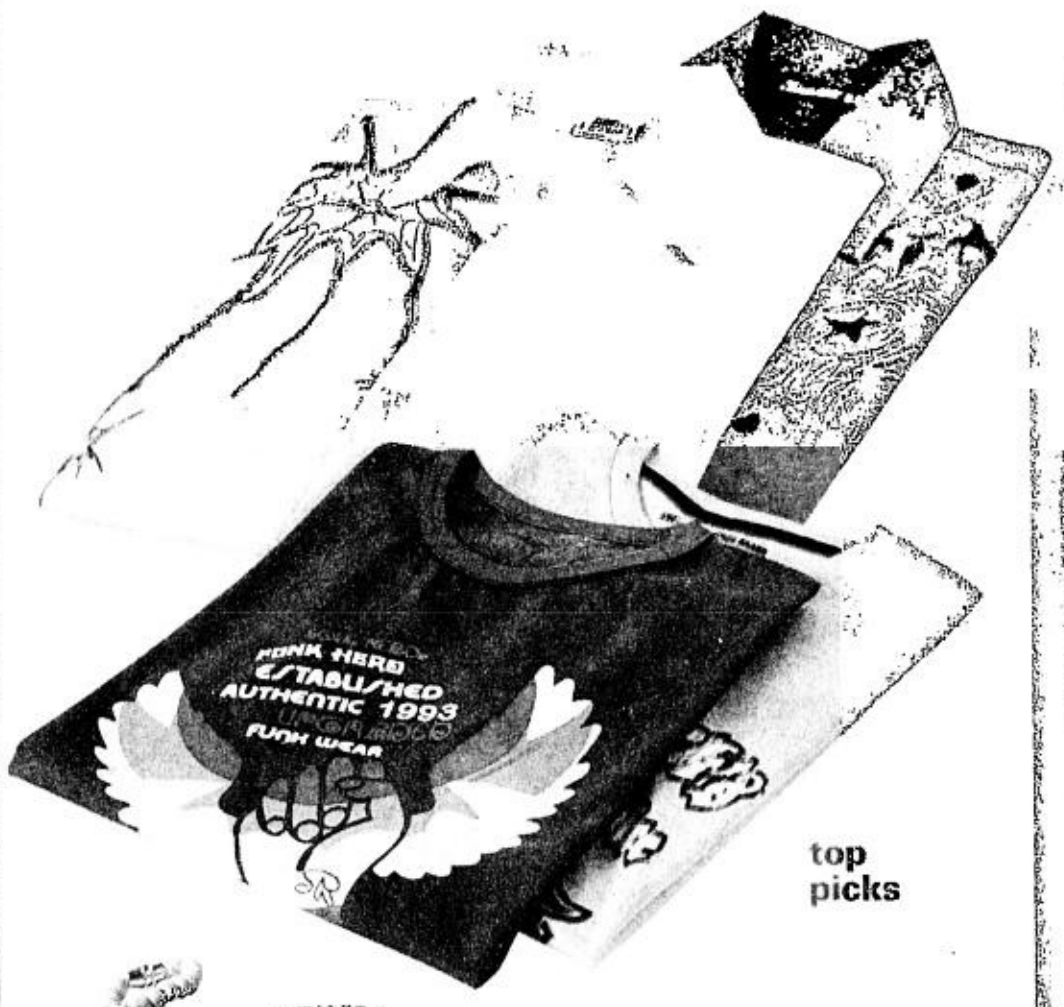


groovin' to the rhythm

MP3 music mates

we've got all the

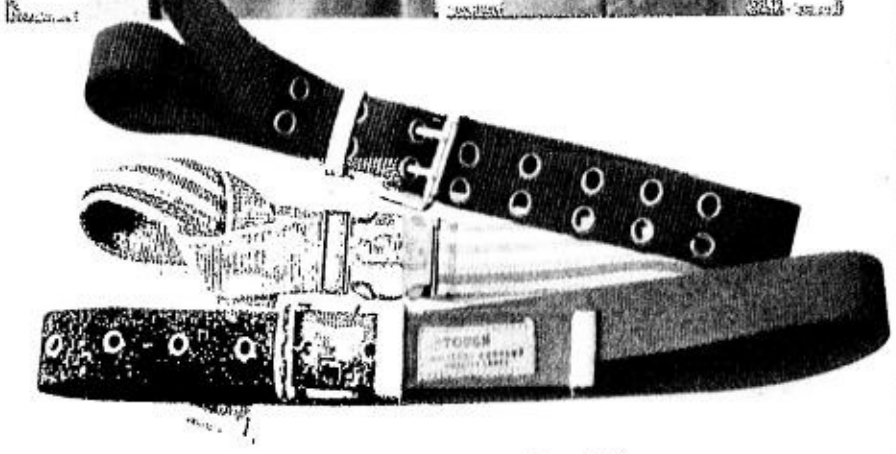
This Christmas, have a blast checking out all the hot new trends at the Boys Teens Department



top picks

accent buddies

good sport



buckle up

We've got it all for you!

SM DEPARTMENT STORE

Per DTI NCR Permit No. 6099, Series of 2005

there are some things money can't buy. for everything else there's MasterCard.™

rewards and benefits every time you shop

QUIAPO • MAKATI • CUBAO • HARRISON • NORTH EDSA • STA. MESA • ORTIGAS • LAS PINAS • BACOOR • FAIRVIEW • MANILA • PAMPANGA • MANDURRIAO
CEBU • DAVAO • CAGAYAN DE ORO • BICUTAN • LUCENA • BAGUIO • MARILAO • DASMARINAS • BATANGAS • DELGADO • SAN LAZARO • SUCAT

PLDT myDSL

Hi-Velocity Broadband Internet

SAY! YES! YES! YES!
To 1 FREE Month

PLDT myDSL

999 plan unlimited

384 kbps at just P999 a month | 7 times faster than dial-up

Plan	Speed (up to)**	Monthly Fee	Recommended Applications
Xpression	384 Kbps	P999	Surfing, E-mail, MP3 downloads
Xcite	768 Kbps	P1995	Surfing, E-mail, MP3 downloads, Video clips/ Trailers
Xcel	1 Mbps	P3000	Surfing, E-mail, MP3 downloads, Video clips/ Trailers, Game downloads, Video conferencing, Video streaming

Rates are VAT inclusive.
**New speeds are being rolled out gradually in selected areas

Subscribe to PLDT myDSL Plan 999 now and get a one month free subscription! With its unlimited broadband connection of up to 384 kbps, you can surf, chat, download, stream video as long and as much as you want! Plus with PLDT myDSL, you get a wider coverage area than other broadbands, especially with its new wireless solution myDSL-W. You can even call abroad for less than ₱6 per minute using your myDSL-powered PC or less than ₱9 per minute using your PLDT landline*. Subscribe to PLDT myDSL Plan 999 now!

Hurry! PLDT myDSL Plan 999 is open until December 31, 2005 only.

*Call 10-10-10 to register.

See flyers for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3072 Series of 2005.

Call 7A or visit www.mydsl.net

PLDT

For feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback:
Inquirer life name/age/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Turn that Gold into Cash...
Get a Gift that would last a Lifetime...
CSB Jewelry Loan
FOR JEWELRY ACQUISITION AND COLLATERAL
Inquire now at the branch nearest you!
CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS
PRESTIGE TOWER, DOH FRANCISCO ORTIGAS JR. ROAD, ORTIGAS CENTER, PASIG CITY

SOUTHEAST Asian Games Ambassadors Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla (second from left), Allan Caidic and Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski with Sportcentral's Gordon Laborada (left) and Philip Go (right) formally open the joint project of Sports Central and the Philippine Southeast Asian Games Organizing Committee in promoting the 23rd Sea Games Philippines 2005.

SM-PHILSOC PARTNERSHIP. The SM Welcome Card will be distributed to all Sea Games athletes and officials. At the opening ceremony are Southeast Asian Games Secretary Steve Hontiveros, SM's marketing head Robert Decena, AVP for ad and promo Rudy Villar, AVP for operations Maricle Abrue and SM Megamall manager Royston Cabunag.

Official store of 23rd SEAG

THE SM SUPERMALL CHAIN IS THE OFFICIAL mall of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games (SEAG) Nov. 27-Dec. 5 in the Philippines.

This is the third time the Philippines is playing host to the games conceptualized by Laung Sukhumnaipradit, then vice president of the Thailand Olympics Committee, to help promote cooperation and understanding among countries in the region.

A total of 11 countries are participating in SEAG which has the theme "One Heritage... One Southeast Asia."

As the official mall, SM will provide 14,000 athletes and sports officials a Welcome Card each that will entitle them to shopping fun and discounts in all the store's branches nationwide.

SM will also be selling SEA Games memorabilia—t-shirts, trophies, key chains, tissue holders, ash trays and others.

SM stores and malls were visited early in the month by a motorcade of Team Philippines athletes.

The chain's Sportscentral hosted a series of events to celebrate the games. These included a Panalo Sale that offered discounts of up to 40 percent on selected items like bags, jerseys, shoes and sports apparel.

The country's leading sports personalities also visited various malls to generate interest in SEAG. These included basketball hotshot Allan Caidic, star shooter Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla, athletic greats Lydia de Vega-Mercado and Elma Muros-Posadas, and boxer Onyok Velasco.

Other sports ambassadors were equestrienne Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski, swimmers Eric Buhain and Akiko Thompson, bowling champ Paeng Nepomuceno, badminton whiz Weena Lim, taekwondo jin Monsour del Rosario, and billiards legend Efren "Bata" Reyes.

The mall also featured demonstrations by local athletes of martial arts like *wushu* and *arnis*, dance sports and taekwondo.

Holiday shopping made easy for Sucat residents

SM CITY SUCAT CUSTOMERS WILL find holiday shopping even more exciting with the opening of an SM Department Store branch in the supermall's newly opened annex.

While the mall has been around since 2001, the department store is a new addition.

Color is the key in the 15,884-sq-m store with its sleek and contemporary design. The three-level store has bright and well-lighted modern interiors. Graphics highlight the interiors, with a play on light and color. A standard panel merchandising system creates standard modules for perimeter walls. Overall, the new store reflects the SM design image.

One can find Men's Wear and Accessories on the first level, along with Teens' Wear, Watsons, Kultura Filipina, Record Bar and Stationery departments. Foreign Exchange, Gift Wrapping, Alteration and Customer Service areas are also on this level.

The second level has Ladies' Wear and Accessories, Shoes, Bags and Luggage Departments. It's also a place for kids with Toy World, Character Shop, Children's Wear and Accessories, Infants Wear and Accessories, and Baby Company Department. Shoppers can take a break by having something to eat at the Snack Exchange Department.

On the third level are the Home World and Workshop departments.

The newly opened SM Department Store is at SM City Sucat Building B, Dr. A, Santos Ave., Barangay San Dionisio, Parañaque City.

The Tuna Meat Loaf
that will truly win your heart.

100% Tuna Meat. Rich in heart-friendly Omega-3. High in Protein, low in Fat. Absolutely No preservatives. Plus all the meaty, tasty goodness you love in a meat loaf.

Century TUNA
the Supermeat

INQUIRER family photo at the 19th Ad Congress in Cebu

HARRISON ad pro Joey Campillo and BBDO guys Randy Aquino, David Guerrero and Paul Roebuck

COMEDY group The Spit with group member and emcee Dinky Mercado

A-1 adventures at the Ad Congress

TESSA!

Tessa Prieto-Valdes

ATHENA'S VERY FIRST plane ride went without a hitch.

It was a lucky day for all of us. We were upgraded to Class A, according to my son, **Tyrone**. The wonderful PAL agent must have taken pity on me, traveling with two kids and a baby, assisted by my jewel of a nanny, **Juvy**, of course. With the plane so full, he still found a way to sit all of us together, which was great as I was nursing seven-month-old Athena.

My kids got to do a photo op with the pilots before take-off. Seven-year-old **Annika** was amazed with the many switches in the cockpit and wondered how the pilots knew which buttons to press. She could only compare it to her Game Boy with six knobs. They were so excited with the chairs that fully reclined to almost a full stretch. Athena, on the other hand, was just curious trying to figure out what was going on.

We were all headed for Cebu for the Ad Congress! INQUIRER was a major sponsor, so my husband, **Dennis**, flew in ahead with the other attendees. I just flew in for the INQUIRER party and Araw Awards that weekend. All the creative minds of the advertising world were at the Waterfront Hotel, honoring the top print, radio and TV commercials.

At the airplane-inspired party, INQUIRER CEO and my little sis, **Sandy Romualdez**, launched INQUIRER Compact, the new, mid-sized INQUIRER edition. I am sure this will be just as successful as the innovative tabloid, Libre.

All the creative minds of the advertising world were at the Waterfront Hotel

Before they raffled off a trip to Cannes, the comic group The Spit gave a really hilarious program. The mascots of INQUIRER and Cebu Daily News—Guyito and Siloy—also stole the show.

Anchorwoman **Veronica Pedrosa** hosted the main Araw Awards right after the INQUIRER party. I could almost hear her saying, "This is CNN." Her heavy British accent is her distinctive trademark.

The Araw Awards are always fun. I remember awarding one category at the last Ad Congress in Baguio, with my trademark outrageous sun outfit by fab designer **Rajo Laurel**.

Unlike previous Ad Congresses where there were countless celebrities of both ABS-CBN and GMA7 milling around, this year had less parties and events. One exciting show-biz feature was the press conference of the former housemates of the ABS-CBN hit reality TV show, "Pinoy Big Brother," at the Casino Filipino.

'Pinoy Big Brother' craze

A few weeks back, I was invited by Metro Magazine of ABS-CBN Publishing to check out the behind-the-scenes action at the PBB set. Annika was so excited, she asked me if she and her cousins could tag along. Clueless about the show, I was amazed to learn what a phenomenon PBB had become.

The housemates are to complete 111 days without contact with the outside world and learn to co-exist until they get voted out. They should come up with a PBB Congress! The whole house is surrounded by cameras, recording everything 24/7 and edited for the daily one-hour show.

At the end of the tour, evictee **Sam Milby** happened to be there and the lucky girls were thrilled to have a photo with him. Today, there are four housemates left and Dec. 10 is the big season-ender.

After chatting with director **Lauren Dyogi**, I was short-listed as a possible housemate in the celebrity PBB edition starting January next year. Even with the generous prize money, though, I don't think I would last a day. The rooms, including toilets, have cameras. My hair won't last that long without my weekly visit to Emphasis Salon with my stylist **Victor Ortega**. There needs to be special accommodations if I am to consider the challenge.

Cebu connection

Whenever I am in Cebu, I call on my Cebuano party connection, **Butch Carungay**, to fill me in with the latest happenings and the hottest bars. So just before the finale of the Araw Awards, Dennis and I sneaked out and headed to the soon-to-open restaurant-bar, Cielo. Co-owned by Butch, this ultra-chic hot spot near Ayala will surely be the place to be seen. Butch also told me the bar is perfect for him—he might as well make a commission on his drinking!

From there, we headed toward the newly renovated Vudu Bar, the Cebu version of Embassy at the Fort. Located at the ultra-hip leisure complex Crossroads, this dance club owned by **John Paul Chiongbian** is the coolest place to hang out.

Thanks to John Paul's sister, **Jaja Chiongbian** of Mactan Island Shangri-La, we even got VIP passes with free champagne, though I was still nursing and so held back on the bubbly. When I eventually stop feeding, I shall have an open-bar party celebration. Of course, at the rate I am going, this might be still in two years!

After all the partying, we headed back to Mactan Shang for a fun-filled activity weekend with the kids. This resort is continually renovating and improving their facilities. One truly has to be impressed with their faith in the Philippine tourism industry!

Spa treat

We once again enjoyed relaxing treatments in Chi Spa and had lunch in the soon-to-open Tea in Spring, their Chinese teahouse with over 50 specialty tea flavors to offer. Shang's new marketing head, **Sharon Samarista**, told us over dim sum there is a continuous flow of foreign guests, Koreans who come to get married, Japanese families, European honeymooners and other Westerners. The hotel has built a beautiful, nonsectarian chapel with the pews facing the ocean. When Mass is celebrated at sunset, it is an incredible sight.

Cebu is marketed outside the Philippines as "an island in the Pacific." That way, they are independent of the negative perceptions about our country. The tourist industry is thriving down south and is indeed helping with our country's economic growth.

Another event, even further south, was Timeless Weddings Bridal Fair at the Marco Polo Hotel in Davao. Last month, the hotel hosted the biggest wedding and brides' fair in Mindanao. Renowned designer **Frederick Peralta** presented his latest bridal collection to the cosmo Davao audience. His long gowns with delicate beadwork and Asian-inspired creations illustrated his creative artistry.

The Philippines can totally boast of many beautiful facets among its many islands. As the Ad Congress theme goes, "Are We Ready for the World?" Of course we are!

E-mail me at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph.

CIELO owners Dexter Narvios, Ed Mallari, Byron Gonzalez, Robbie Herrera, Steve Maniquis, Rick Aznar-Beane and Butch Carungay

MANILA visitors GP Reyes and Celine Gabriel with friends at the bridal show

COOL siblings Jaja and John Paul Chiongbian

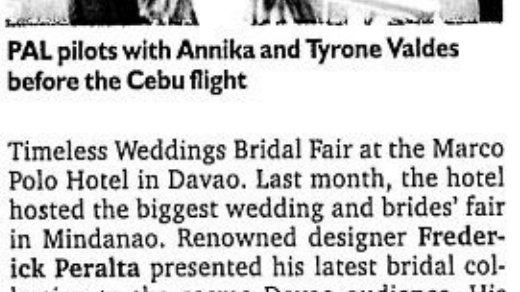
YOUNG Cebu designers Enrico Lingao-lingao and Ronald Villavelez

MACTAN Shang PR Jaja Chiongbian, Sea Princess and hubby Dennis, and Sharon Samarista at Tea in Spring restaurant

BEAUTIFUL new chapel at Mactan Shang facing the ocean

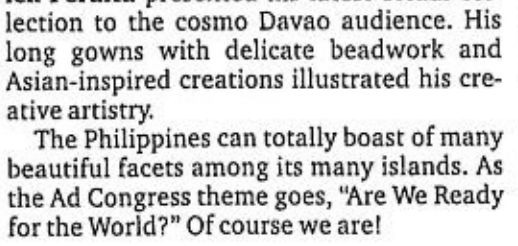
PAL pilots with Annika and Tyrone Valdes before the Cebu flight

WEDDING gown designer Frederick Peralta



INQUIRER gang David Valdes, Poch and Doris Bermudez of HIP

ACE lensman Xander Angeles, Adrian Tecson and Treena Cueva of Summit Media



MARCO Polo PR Art Boncato, Virgina Anderson and GM Stanley Lau

MARGA Rey of Campaigns Davao

MARY Ann Montemayor of Villa Margarita

A KEEPER. Remember the 23rd SEA Games with a commemorative Swatch with blue strap and dark face.

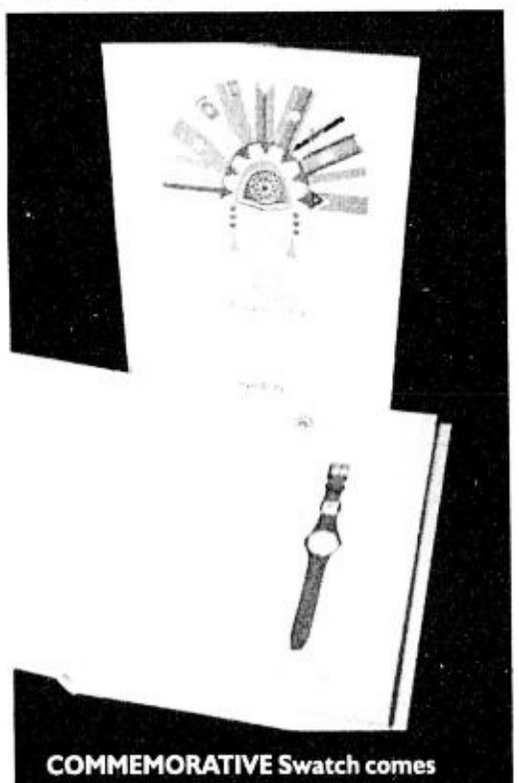
The moment that matters

A MOMENT IS ALL IT TAKES TO BREAK A record, win by a point, or alter life for someone in competition. Multiply that moment by the number of winners in the SEA Games and you can write history. To remember all those moments, and more, Swatch has just the watch.

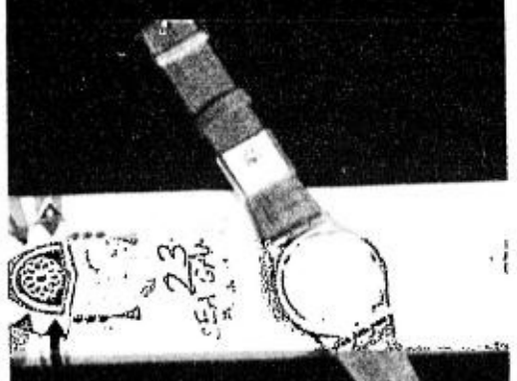
The SEA Games Commemorative Swatch comes in choices of red, blue or dark blue folio strap, denim strap or red leather strap. It is the most talked-about watch among the new arrivals at the Swatch and the Gift Gate stores this week.

And why not? It comes in a VIP gift book especially designed for PhilSoc chief executive officer Peping Cojuangco's President's night. To be presented to the best athletes of the SEA Games, the book may also be ordered at P5,000 per copy at any Swatch or Gift Gate store.

To complete its support for the SEA Games, Gift Gate has flown in nine-year-old Julia Abueva, daughter of Jonas and Regina Abueva, to sing the SEA Games theme song at the opening today.



COMMEMORATIVE Swatch comes encased in a special book.

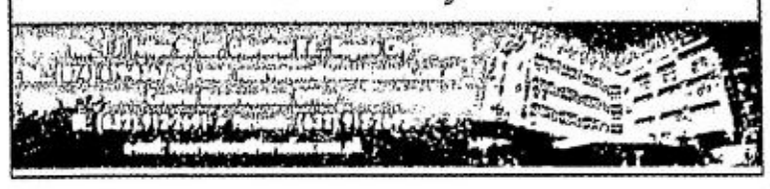


DENIM STRAP version

JULIA Abueva, a little girl with a big voice, is the granddaughter of two former University of the Philippines presidents.

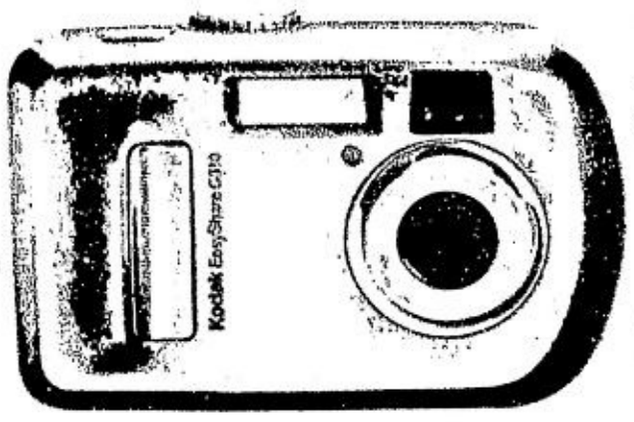
For a minimum stay of 3 nights...
Avail of our ₱1,900.00 net *per person*
(Based on Twin Sharing)
and experience Christmas
at a Mediterranean Boutique Hotel
in the City of Pines...

Hotel Elizabeth
Forsal • Baguio



DIGITAL MADE AFFORDABLE.

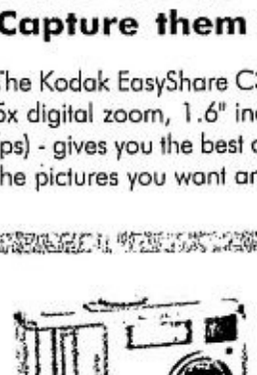
C310
4.0 megapixel camera
only ₱7,995



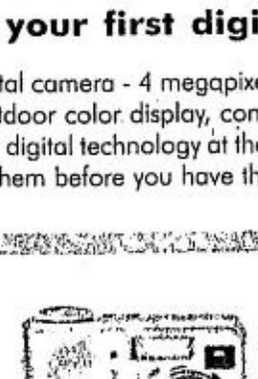
There are no second chances for life's special moments. Capture them with your first digital camera.

· The Kodak EasyShare C310 digital camera - 4 megapixels for high-quality prints up to 20" x 30", 5x digital zoom, 1.6" indoor/outdoor color display, continuous QVGA video (320 x 240 at 20 fps) - gives you the best of Kodak digital technology at the most affordable price. So now, take all the pictures you want and view them before you have them printed.

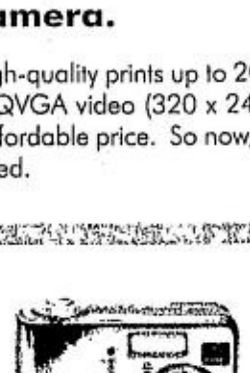
Kodak EasyShare
digital camera



C530 *(available soon)*
5 MP for prints up to 20" x 30"
5x digital zoom
Continuous QVGA video
₱9,995



C330
4 MP for prints up to 20" x 30"
3x digital zoom; 5x digital zoom
VGA video with audio
₱13,995



C340
5 MP for prints up to 20" x 30"
3x optical zoom
VGA video with audio
₱15,995

C360
5 MP for prints up to 20" x 30"
3x optical zoom; 5x digital zoom
VGA video with audio
₱16,995

FREE

and Camera Case
for C330, C340, C360 only

Inquire about the 0% interest on 6 months payment scheme in participating stores.

GlobeQUEST TAPS G-CASH FUNCTIONALITIES FOR G-POS RETAIL PLATFORM

GlobeQUEST, the corporate business group of Innove Communications, has collaborated with Globe G-Cash, the country's first cashless and cardless m-commerce service, and Ripple E-Business International to develop an all-in-one solution that will facilitate the acceptance of G-Cash as an alternative form of payment in local retail outlets.

Dubbed as G-POS, the system enables GlobeQUEST Store Express customers to seamlessly integrate their current POS (Point-of-Sale) system with the G-Cash open platform. This allows customers to make essential G-Cash transactions like merchant payment, bills payment, cash and m-currency conversions, and AutoloadMAX reloads without the use of a cellular phone.

Through G-POS, retailers automatically become G-Cash merchant partners and can gain access to the nearly 14 million Globe and TM subscriber base.

G-Cash is being increasingly recognized as a powerful platform for micro-payments and entrepreneurship, thereby, providing retailers an alternative payment scheme for the customers.

At present, G-Cash has more than 1 million registered users and nearly 4,000 partners and outlets locally and worldwide.

With the collaboration of G-Cash and GlobeQUEST Store Express, customers would get to enjoy a higher level of service and ultimately, a fulfilling shopping experience.

GlobeQUEST Store Express is a solution specifically designed to address the various connectivity requirements of the retail industry and to meet both the network and IT requirements of any retail company.

It was designed to help companies with several branches in different locations monitor sales and keep track of inventory in real time. This service helps companies stay on top of their operations by keeping them up-to-date on what's happening in their outlets.

With its branches connected in real time, a retail company gets reliable and fast access to data and other information that would help it improves its business productivity and efficiency.

GlobeQUEST Store Express combines access or transmission methods with a number of value-added services to provide a total solution to companies that operate retail chains. It provides retailers the flexibility to choose and mix the access methods and value-added services suitable to their operations.

There are three types of private access methods being offered by GlobeQUEST: StoreExpress on Demand for retailers that require dial-up connection to periodically transmit reports, Store Express Online for those that demand reliable access at broadband speeds, and Store Express Premium for companies that need guaranteed real-time connectivity to transmit data, voice and video over their private network.

To complement the fast connections, Store Express also provides several value-added services that would match the needs of retailers such as Internet access, web and emailing hosting, business continuity and recovery service, managed customer premises equipment, remote video monitoring, POS software and hardware bundles in partnership with IBM Philippines and Continuum Technology Corporation, as well as hosted SMS and mobile solutions.

GlobeQUEST Store Express would greatly benefit retail companies operating food and non-food chains, department stores, ticketing outlets, supermarkets, bookstores, pawnshops, and remittance centers among others.

ADVT.

OUR SOLUTIONS
LET YOU THINK AHEAD
AND MOVE AHEAD.

At GlobeQUEST, we believe in planning ahead. We make sure that all our business solutions are always innovative to prevent you from being limited by existing technology. In fact, we were the first to offer International Private Line Circuits (IPLCs) using Fiber Optic technology, allowing you to communicate with your offices abroad at lightning speed. GlobeQUEST was also the first to bring High-Speed Broadband Internet in the country and offer wireless fidelity (WiFi) services nationwide through WiZ (Wireless Internet Zone) giving you access to the Internet outside your home and office. Through BAX (Broadband Access Services), we allow ultra high speed connectivity up to Gigabits of capacity across the country. With Internet Protocol Virtual Private Network (IP-VPN), you can access corporate data from different offices securely over the Internet. We evolve our products to match your needs, equipping you with everything you need to move forward. We are built for change. If your goal is to move ahead, call us.

Products offered: Private Networks, Broadband Internet, Enterprise Mobility Solutions, Corporate Voice, Broadband Access (BAX), Data Centres

GlobeQUEST is the corporate brand of Innove Communications. Innove Communications is a 100% subsidiary of Globe Telecom.

Contact Us: 79-QUEST (79-78378), marketing@globequest.com.ph, www.globequest.com.ph

Globe QUEST
The new pace of business

Sunday LIFESTYLE

For feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback ... 283 (Smart)

PRIETO-FRANCISCO NUPTIALS

Match made in plum heaven

STORY ON PAGE E2

The Tiffany Mark®
In Platinum

This is the quintessential classic wristwatch with all the time-honored virtues. Inimitable Tiffany design inspired by 19th century Tiffany pocket watches. Pedigree Swiss automatic mechanical movement. In platinum .950 pure.

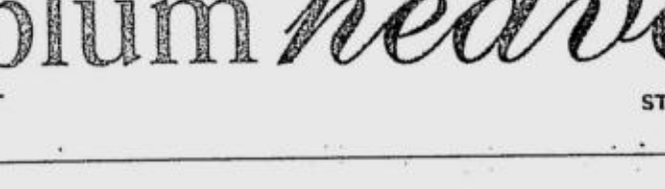
TIFFANY & CO.

Rustan's
MAKATI • SHANGRI-LA PLAZA

DOCKERS

DRESS TO LIVE™

Dollars from Dockers®



"Dollars From Dockers®" Promo Mechanics

- Promo period is from November 25, 2005 – January 8, 2006.
- For every P2,999.50 worth of Dockers® regular products purchased nationwide in a single receipt, each customer is entitled to one (1) raffle coupon.
- Customer shall fill out the raffle coupon with complete name, address, telephone number, if any, and affix signature and drop in designated drop boxes located at the participating store where the purchase was made.
- Deadline of submissions of entries is on January 15, 2006, 7PM.
- Draw Date. Ten (10) winners will be selected on January 30, 2006 at 5:00pm at the Levi Strauss Philippines head office at the 20th floor, Enterprise Tower, Ayala Avenue, Makati City. A DTI representative shall witness the draws.
- Each winner will receive USD 1,000.00 in cash.
- A customer can only win once for the entire promo period.

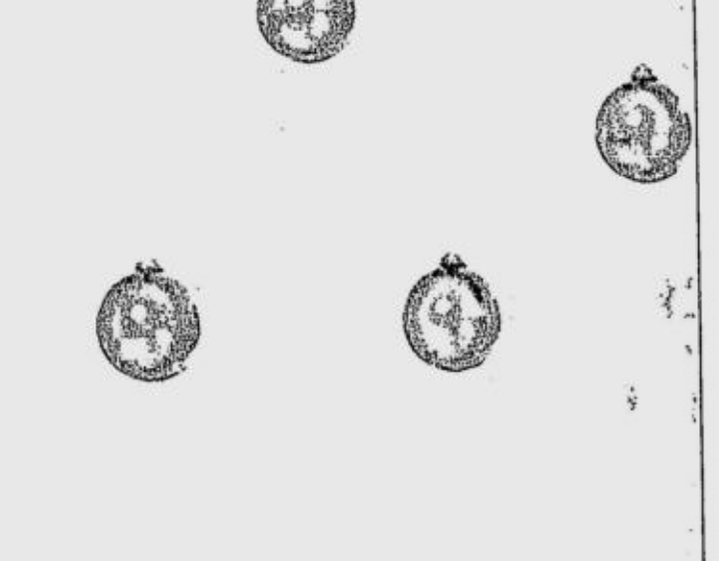
Winners will be informed by telephone and registered mail and may claim their prizes by presenting a valid ID and their registered mail at the following locations:

Luzon - Levi Strauss Philippines Head Office, 20th floor, Enterprise Tower, Ayala Avenue, Makati City

Visayas - Levi Strauss Philippines Cebu Office, Rm. 201 CRM Building Cor. Molave and Escario Sts., Lahug, Cebu City

Mindanao - Levi Strauss Philippines Davao Office, Door 1 G/F, Cocolife Building, Palma Gil St. corner CM Recto St., Davao City

- Prizes not claimed within a period of 60 days from receipt of the registered mail will be forfeited in favor of Dockers® Levi Strauss Philippines with prior DTI approval.
- Prizes are non-transferrable.
- Any applicable taxes associated with the prizes will be shouldered by the winners.
- Employees of Levi Strauss Philippines, Kestrel IMC and participating outlets including their relatives up to second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promotion.
- Participating stores: Dockers stores nationwide. See posters for details.



Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4002 Series of 2005

Match made in plum heaven

By Tim Yap

I JUST WANTED IT TO BE DIFferent," said the newest addition to the Prieto clan, Ria Francisco-Prieto. She and her hubby, Paolo Prieto, did not need much effort, really, being who they are.

Paolo, head of this paper's forward-thinking Inq7.net, and Ria, now contributing editor of Lifestyle's Friday Beauty section, took society by storm when they announced their wedding plans. And true enough, on the night right after they exchanged vows, a storm came.

Not that this was a portent of things to come. The couple is very much happy with their new life as husband and wife. "I've never been more content," confessed Paolo. "I've realized that life is about 80s and 20s. The 80 percent are your friends, and the 20 percent are the friends who will fight for you. I've raised my benchmark for friendships by knowing who those 20 percent are."

The 20 percent-friends were in full force in Tagaytay Highlands to toast the union of young society's newest married couple. The bridesmaids wore figure-hugging gowns in plum by Dennis Lustico.

"Paolo liked the color when I wore it to another friend's wedding, so he asked that the entourage wear plum," so said the beauty connoisseur, who knew that dark fall/winter shades would be perfect for Tagaytay.

"I didn't want anything white—so I made sure even the flowers, lanterns and the tablecloth were in various other tints."

For her dress, Ria collaborated with Lustico to make it a champagne-colored gown with lace, pleated at the top, and belted with micro beads to reveal a bustle skirt. "We only had three months to prepare, but we wanted everything to be very special."

THE NEWLYWEDS with the groom's family headed by Alex and Marixi Prieto

Not your normal wedding

It sure was extra-special. Both the fathers of the bride and the groom gave heartfelt speeches to their children on the importance of this new phase in their lives.

Ria's dad, Lito Francisco, quoted the Bible and said that a good wife must be submissive, which prompted Ria's cousin, Ria Romero, to go up to the bride and jokingly comment, "*Ano ba si Tito* Lito, be submissive—doesn't he know it's already the 21st century?!"

When it was Alex Prieto's turn to address the couple, he started talking to Paolo as he used to when the groom was a little boy. "Paolo is like me, he's very naughty," said dad Alex, winking to new daughter-in-law Ria, which caused the crowd to roar in laughter that windy night.

RIA Romero

The running joke was, "Ria, when are you gonna start playing golf?" This was in reference to the Prieto family sport, which explains the choice of venue for the reception.

You see, this wasn't the normal, stiff wedding you would expect from scions of society. This was a fun and relaxed gathering of friends and family who knew how to really celebrate a couple's union.

There were no tears, at least not from the bride. Not even when she was marching down the aisle.

"I wasn't nervous at all. I was just focused on walking and not tripping, because I'm so the type who would fall," said Ria.

The groom could not say the same. When he saw Ria walking down the aisle, Paolo got teary-eyed, but before a tear could fall, he looked away and just waited for his bride-to-be.

"He loved the dress. I didn't tell him everything about my gown, I wanted it to be a surprise!" So exclaimed the blushing bride.

What does she remember most about the wedding?

"I remember the thing that Tessa did. She printed tarpaulin billboards in pink, with our picture as a couple. It lined the road leading to our reception venue. It served our guests well because it acted as the guide to where we were at when the rains fell," said Ria.

She also recalled with great fondness the display of fireworks that was a gift from Paolo's sister, Sandy Romualdez.

The flower girls, adorable in mini replicas of the bride's gown—champagne tinted gowns with lace, bustle skirt and plum belt—watched the night sky serve as backdrop to the display of lights that rejoiced with the couple and their friends.

Extensions of each other

Joy and laughter were the overriding theme of the party. Best man Mike Arcenas recounted during his speech, "I've known Paolo for five years, but I got close to him only six months ago. And I told him I would be best man only if the package would include my daughter as the flower girl and that he would give us rooms in Tagaytay Highlands."

ROBERT Cruz and Tina Vasquez Prada

JACK and Marge Duavit

TINA Tinio and Ianne Evangelista

RAFFY and Pauline Juan

MYRZA Sison, Donna Cuna-Pita and Giselle Go of the Summit Publishing family

CHESCA Carpo, Anna Cruz, Patricia Cojuangco, Giselle Sityar, Marielle Yulo, Joan Pineda and Isabel Roces

MIMI Tiu, Ria, Mia Custodio, Ines Bautista and Mia Fausto

PAOLO Pineda and Minelli Bautista

TRICIA, Raffy and Ian Ocampo

THE NEWLYWEDS with the bride's clan

The other best man was more serious. Debonair Raj Moreno had this to say to his buddy: "You are each other's extensions. If you take care of the other one, then you're taking care of yourself, too." To this day, the newlyweds can't forget the wisdom that Raj had imparted to them.

"Ria has always been very prayerful and she's been praying for a good husband, so I guess she is lucky because I think Paolo is the answer to her prayers." So proclaimed Olive, Ria's younger sister, who is also quite happy that she gets to have her own room now that *Ate* Ria is going to live with *Kuya* Paolo.

At the reception, the band Time and a Half kept everyone grooving. There's just this contagious vibe during wedding parties that when the band all of a sudden sings "Get On Your Feet," everybody just stands up. It happened, too, at this wedding reception. Anthem after anthem, nobody wanted to stop dancing.

So what's the secret to a successful wedding? "It's really helpful that our coordinator, Chinkie Uy, was really good," answered Ria. Paolo, for his part, said, "The key is the drinks. After everything, that's the only thing people would remember.'

And then the newlyweds lip-lock and engage each other in a tight embrace—love, newly blessed.

Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and gown designer along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to the INQUIRER, P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the senders.

MARIANO-SONICO

Oliver Mariano, son of **Remigio Mariano** and **Evelyn Javier**, and **Ehmee Sonico**, daughter of **Severiano Sonico** and **Consuelo Hofalla** of Sta. Lucia, Ilocos Sur, will exchange vows 10 a.m., Nov. 28, at St. Lucy Parish Church in Ilocos Sur. Reception will follow at the bride's residence in Ilocos Sur.

Paul Rex Mateo of the Wedding Day designed and executed the gowns of the bride and her entourage.

HULLEZA-ABONG

Rosemarie Abong, daughter of **Roberto Sr.** and **Thelma Abong**, will marry **Leondy Hulleza**, son of **Leon** and **Zaida Hulleza**, on Dec. 8 at Sto. Niño de Arevalo Parish Church in Iloilo City. Reception will be held at Rivermist Hall, Punta Villa.

The bridal gown of shantung chiffon with Swarovski details and cock beads was designed by Joseph Arroyo-Tauro.

CAPIZ-SANTOS

Patrick Capiz, son of **Jesus** and **Estrella Capiz**, will marry **Guada Santos**, daughter of **Rodolfo** and **Estrella Santos**, on Dec. 3 at St. James the Great Parish in Ayala, Alabang. Fr. **Jerry Mascarina** will officiate at the wedding. Reception will be at The Bellevue Manila Grand Ballroom. The bride will wear an off-white and champagne-pink princess-cut gown in silk gazaar by **Eddie Baddeo**. The designer also made the gowns for the wedding ensemble in charteuse, lime green and pink motif. **Abbygale Arenas-de Leon** will do the bride's styling.

DADO-GARCIA

Michael S. Dado, son of **Manuel** and **Yolanda Dado**, will marry **Clarissa R. Garcia**, daughter of **Ulysses** and **Elena Garcia**, on Dec. 17 at St. Joseph the Worker Church. Reception will follow at Royale Estate Clubhouse.

GUNDRAN-DE CASTRO

Lawyer **Peter R. Gundran**, son of **Pedro** and **Lagrimas Gundran**, will wed **Maria Cherylle Ann de Castro**, daughter of **Minandro** and **Regina de Castro**, on Dec. 11 at the Sta. Rita de Cascia Church, Philam Homes, QC. Reception will follow at Casa Español, QC. The bride will wear a **Celso Sebastian** creation.

CASTILLO-PASCUAL

Nicholas Ronald Castillo, son of **Renato** and **Cecilia Castillo**, will wed **Alona Pascual**, daughter of Ret. Lt. **Ruben** and **Mercedita Pascual**, at 2:30 p.m., Dec. 3, at Our Lady of Miraculous Medal Chapel in Lipa City. Reception will follow at the PAF Golf Club in Lipa City.

The bride's gown was made by **Fabiola de Lipa**, hair and makeup by **Eddie Rosales**, and photo and video by Ramil's.

FERSAL HOTEL INN
DAILY • WEEKLY • MONTHLY
"Brings the comfort of your home... at the heart of the city."
For as low as...
Php 400.00 to Php 800.00 net/pax
All rates are inclusive of a Free Breakfast except at Annapolis Branch.
• P. Tuazon St., Cubao, Quezon City
Tel.: (+632) 912-8000 / Fax: (+632) 913-6092
• Annapolis St., Cubao, Quezon City
Tel.: (+632) 912-5852 / Fax: (+632) 911-3418
• Neptune St., Makati City
Tel.: (+632) 897-9123 / Fax: (+632) 897-9107
• Kalayaan Avenue, Quezon City
Tel.: (+632) 924-2689 / Fax: (+632) 925-3205
• Andalucia St., Sta. Cruz, Manila
Tel.: (+632) 742-7292 / Fax: (+632) 741-6486

Cashlink Plus is MORE!
Your all in one ATM and PREPAID CREDIT CARD.
No minimum balance! No credit checking required!
Shop. Dine. Travel. Pay bills. Remit funds. Withdraw cash.
SECURITY BANK
Cashlink Plus
5224 6500 0000 0092
5224
VALID THRU 12/08
JUAN MIGUEL SISON
0061-366800-001 SBC
MasterCard Electronic
100% Electronic
VALID ONLY WHERE MASTERCARD ELECTRONIC IS ACCEPTED
Use at any Security Bank, BancNet, Megalink and Cirrus/Maestro ATMs. Honored at BancNet, MasterCard and MasterCard Electronic point of sale, here and abroad.
Load it. Love it! Get your CashLink Plus at any Security Bank branch now.
A Proud Member of BancNet
SECURITY BANK
Security you can bank on

Here's an early Christmas treat from SMART!

₱10 pa rin!

For Up To 3 Minutes SMART-TO-SMART Flat Rate!

or up to 5 minutes for only ₱15!

CALL MORE PEOPLE, MAKE MORE CALLS - FOR LESS!

Wouldn't you want to talk to your loved ones this season? For only ₱10 up to 3-minute calls, you can reach out to more people, for less.

- *Nationwidest Coverage*
- **UNMATCHED VALUE** *No matter what time of the day, you can make that 3-minute call for only ₱10 or a 5 minute call for only ₱15!*
- **ABSOLUTE CONVENIENCE** *No need to Register. Switch from flat rate to regular calls with no hassle.*

Available to all pre-paid brands within the SMART network.

SMART Load
Load now to avail of FLAT RATE calls up to 5 minutes.

To make a FLATRATE call.

1. *Text the number of the party you're calling, ex.:* 09209827365
2. *And send to 883.* 883
3. *You will receive a call from* 883

Answer the call and you will hear a ringtone. The party you're calling will receive a call from your number. You can start talking when he/she answers the call.

Rates:	
Length of call	Price
1 sec. - 3 mins.	Php 10/call
3.01 mins. - 5 mins.	Php 15/call

Save up to 50%

SMART Simply Amazing!

• Open to all SMART & Talk 'N Text subscribers with a balance of P15 up. • Calls shall automatically be cut off after 5 minutes. To make another call, simply dial again. • Not applicable to international calls.

Promo extended from Nov. 19 - Dec. 18, 2005 as approved by DTI-NCR. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 6263, Series of 2005.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Sunday LIFESTYLE

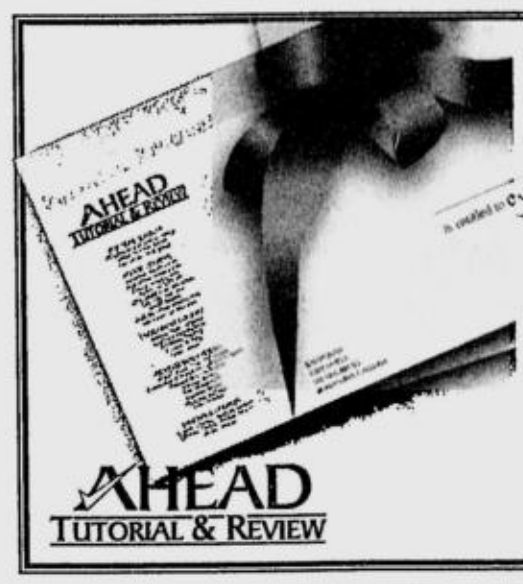
For feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback:
inquirer life name/age/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Merry Asia

CHINESE three wise men made of ceramics PHOTOS BY RUDY ESPERAS

STORY ON PAGE F2



AHEAD TUTORIAL & REVIEW

The Perfect Gift.

Give your friends or relatives the pleasure of having the perfect gift, a wise choice when you want to be a part of their future.

Available in P1000, P3000, and P5,000 denominations. Offering the widest flexibility of redemption honored in all AHEAD Tutorial & Review Branches.

The AHEAD Gift Cheque is the first brand of gift certificate in the country.

So whenever you give AHEAD Gift Cheques, you are giving your recipients the power to be AHEAD -- only from AHEAD Gift Cheques.

Make gift giving hassle-free. Give them the perfect gift, AHEAD Gift Cheque, it's the sure way to let everyone know you care.

For volume orders, please call 426-0034 to 36 or email us at hello@aheadph.com

Cozy suburban living at

Verdana Homes Mamplasan

In today's fast-paced and modern world, the need to create a harmonious and balanced life has become more important than ever, along with the desire to forge more meaningful relationships with the people in our lives. Families – early nesters in particular – have increasingly begun to prefer cozy neighborhood settings over the impersonal atmosphere of large villages. Young couples welcome the idea of forging lifelong friendships with like-minded peers, while parents would appreciate having trusted neighbors keep an eye on their kids during play dates, study sessions, or emergency runs to the nearby grocery.

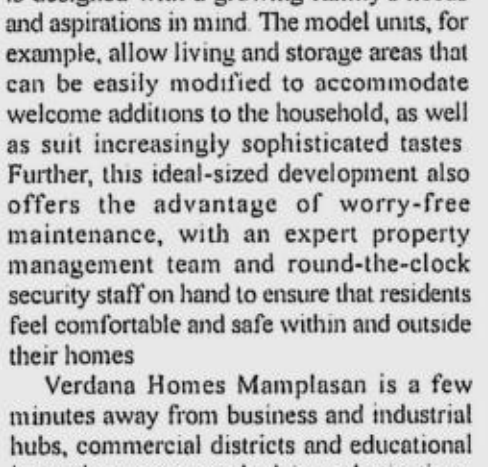
On top of these, young professionals and families place significance on considerations such as the neighborhood's proximity to schools and business districts. Plus, access to leisure areas such as movie houses and even weekend resort getaways are taken into account when investing in a new home and a new neighborhood.

Nestled in the secluded suburban environment of Biñan, Laguna is one such community, a place where everybody knows each other's name and everything important is secure and within walking distance. Verdana Homes Mamplasan is a 35-hectare gated enclave that fosters recreational leisure and friendly interaction among like-minded individuals Cozy residential clusters encourage close relationships with neighbors, while the two-hectare Central Park is the perfect setting for many enjoyable afternoons with newfound friends.

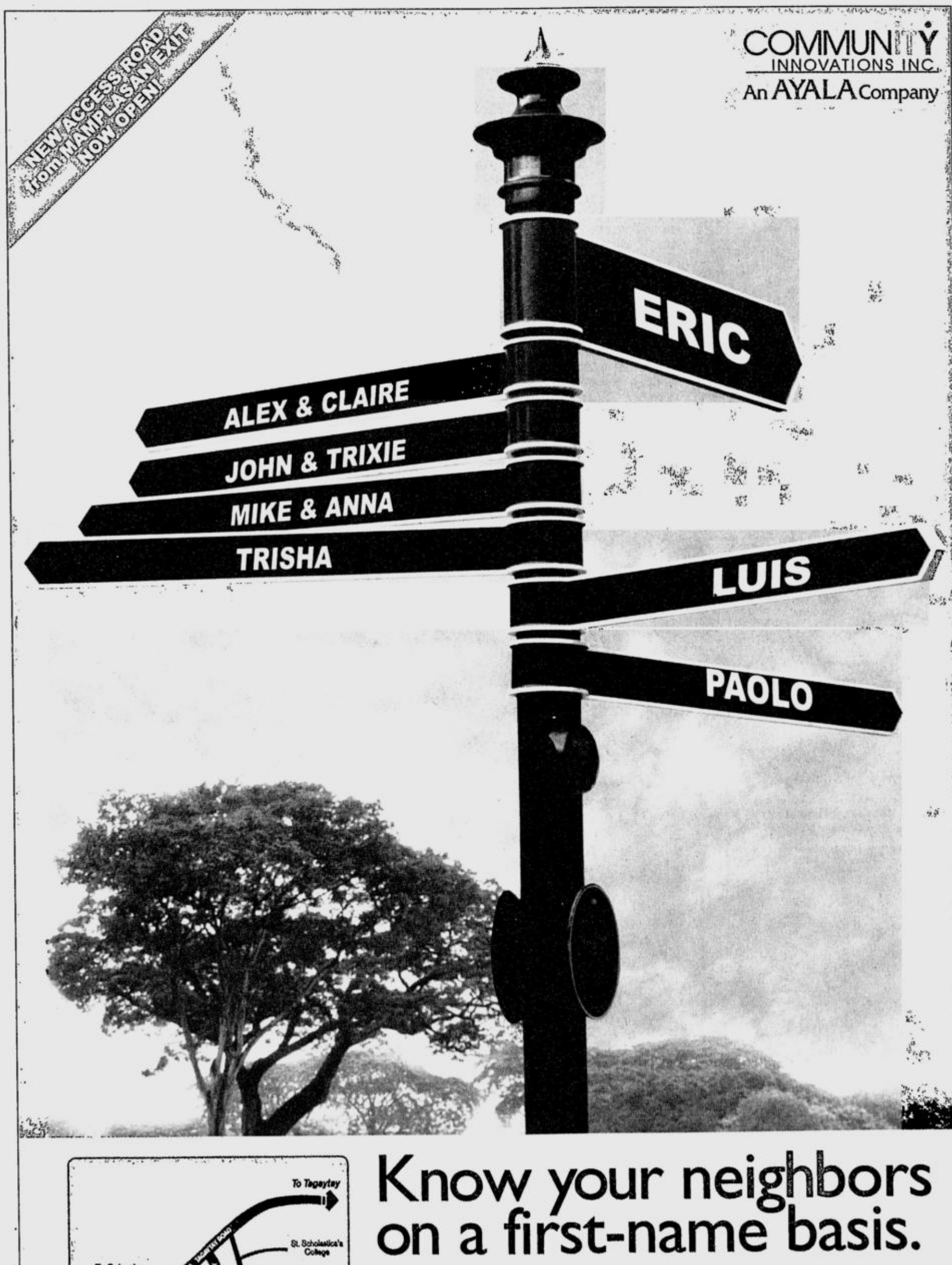
With Community Innovations' recent unveiling of its model homes, potential homeowners can now get a glimpse of the cozy suburban lifestyle that Verdana Homes Mamplasan has to offer. Each model home is designed with a growing family's needs and aspirations in mind. The model units, for example, allow living and storage areas that can be easily modified to accommodate welcome additions to the household, as well as suit increasingly sophisticated tastes Further, this ideal-sized development also offers the advantage of worry-free maintenance, with an expert property management team and round-the-clock security staff on hand to ensure that residents feel comfortable and safe within and outside their homes

Verdana Homes Mamplasan is a few minutes away from business and industrial hubs, commercial districts and educational institutions, even popular leisure destinations. The community is easily accessible from the Mamplasan Exit of the South Luzon Expressway, via an exclusive access road for residents of Verdana Homes Mamplasan.

Community Innovations is an Ayala Land company that builds balanced, harmonious communities with a sense of fun, where the living experience enhances the lifestyles and fulfills the aspirations of its customers. For more information on Verdana Homes Mamplasan, call 888-0000 or email cii-sales@ayalaland.com.ph. Inquiries may also be made at www.verdanamamplasan.com.ph, or at the Verdana Homes Mamplasan sales booth in Alabang Town Center.



With spacious interiors designed to meet a young family's needs, Verdana Homes Mamplasan puts a premium on cozy suburban living both in the houses' and subdivision's design.



Know your neighbors on a first-name basis.

At Verdana Mamplasan, it's so easy to get close to your neighbors that you'll soon find yourself identifying streets by the names of your friends who live along them. Helps especially when your kids suddenly say "We'll be over at Tito Mike's." You'll know instantly they're going somewhere near and reassuringly safe. That's what Verdana Mamplasan is all about. The walkways are plentiful, the amenities are all walking-distance, the security is second to none, and the neighbors are, well, truly neighborly. Inquire now.

Verdana Homes mamplasan

Call 888-0000 or visit us at www.verdanamamplasan.com.ph
e-mail: cii-sales@ayalaland.com.ph

HLURB LTS Nos. 11281-R4A-04-10 & 11296-R4A-04-11

Truly merry Asia

PACHOT MAPA turned a hobby into a thriving business when she opened Old Asia 13 years ago as a center for quality antique furniture and home accessories sourced from all over Asia. PHOTOS BY RUDY ESPERAS

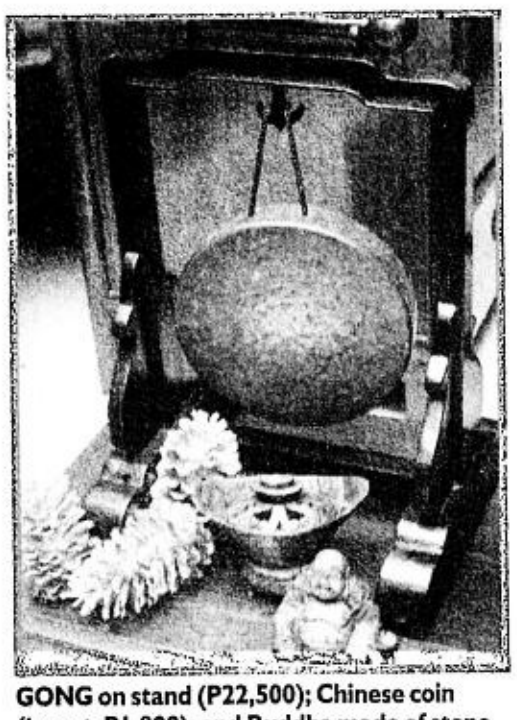
HAVE YOU EVER KNOWN anyone who didn't appreciate a gift for home and hearth?

When you're stumped by what to give these holidays, you can't go wrong with home accents. Browse the Old Asia shops at the Power Plant in Rockwell and Shangri-La Plaza in Mandaluyong and you'll find one too many objects of desire that you'll want to keep for yourself (Christmas begins at home) or present to someone for whose family and home you have nothing but good wishes.

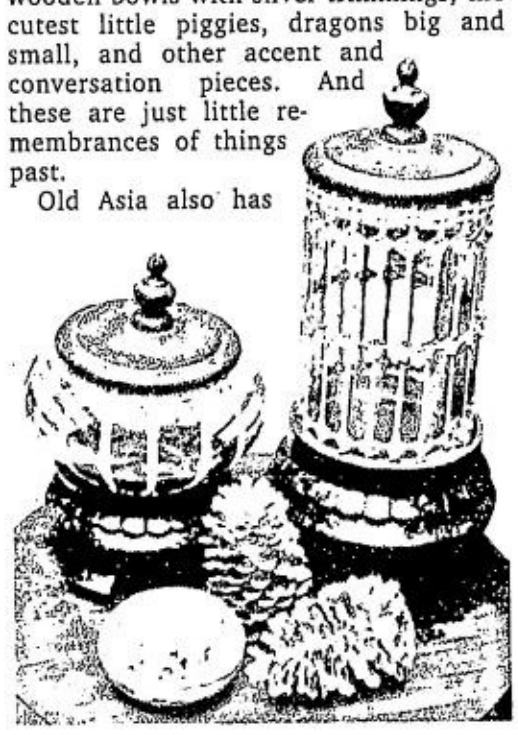
Pachot Mapa's great finds from her trips all over Asia include jade plate chargers, wooden bowls with silver trimmings, the cutest little piggies, dragons big and small, and other accent and conversation pieces. And these are just little remembrances of things past.

Old Asia also has antique and distressed furniture too big to wrap up but never too big to give for the generous of heart. With feng shui becoming a lifestyle force, the store also carries several interesting feng shui pieces that can bring good luck.

As treasures go, the must-haves at Old Asia are not inexpensive. But take heart—the store has an ongoing sale.


GONG on stand (P22,500); Chinese coin (*inggot*, P1,800); and Buddha made of stone (P1,250). All pieces are from China.

LEATHER chess set, fortune sticks, containers from China


GLASS containers, from Thailand

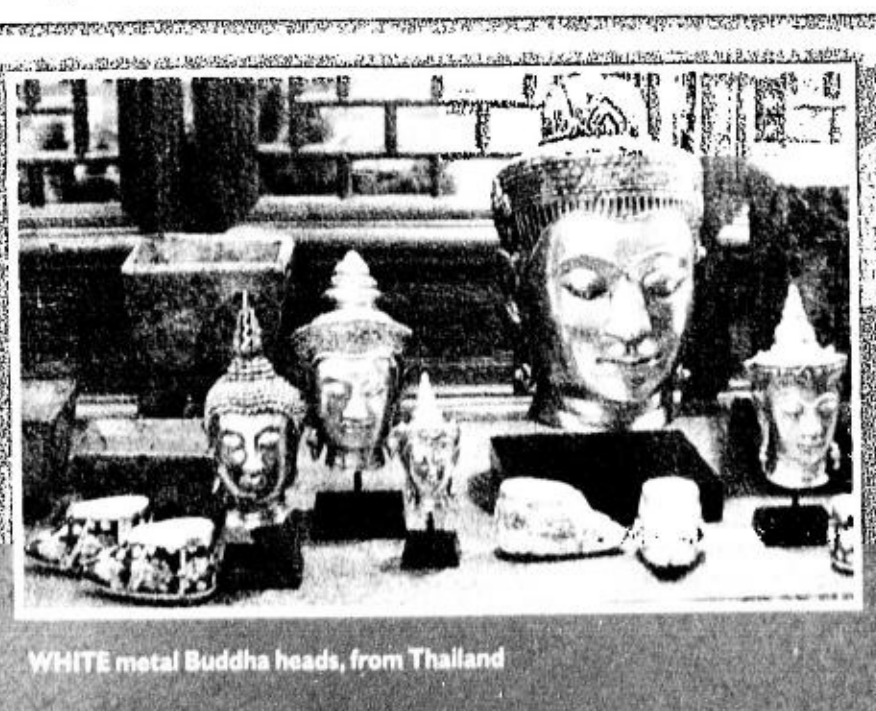
MANGO-WOOD containers and candleholders, from Thailand

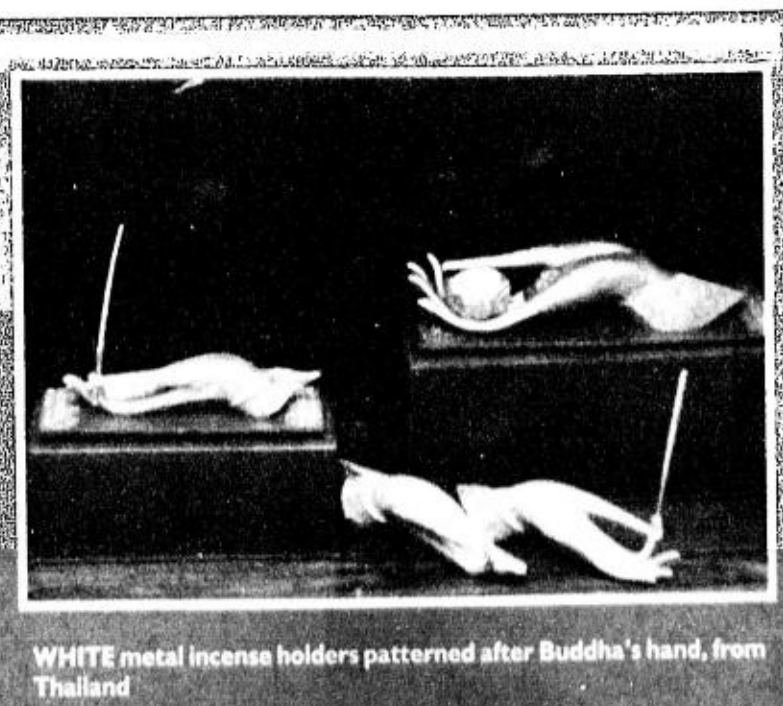
RAINDRUM lamp, from Thailand (P31,500); stone containers, from China (P900)

STONE plate chargers and wooden picnic container, all from China

VARIOUS blue-and-white pieces, from China and Thailand

FOR FENG SHUI enthusiasts: large stone dragons bring good luck, from China


WHITE metal Buddha heads, from Thailand


WHITE metal incense holders patterned after Buddha's hand, from Thailand

KIDS can enjoy the magic and joy of the season with Shopwise's stuffed toys.

Win a trip for the whole family

SHOPWISE HAS A SPECIAL TREAT FOR shoppers this Christmas.

With the Magic Pass, six lucky families will win a four-day/three-night tour package for four to Disneyland Hong Kong. The package includes airfare, hotel accommodations and free passes to the newest Disneyland. Promo period is from Dec. 1 to Jan. 4, 2006.

Shoppers can also learn the fundamentals of cooking and baking 12 popular recipes for Noche Buena through Twelve Tastes of Christmas, at 3-5 p.m., from Dec. 18-23.

Shopwise has also transformed its stores into Christmas wonderlands. Kids can enjoy the magic and joy of the season with A Toy Story with its life-size toys for girls and boys. They include stuffed toys of different kinds, shapes and sizes. Mini Christmas villages like Santa's own secret hideaway filled with presents and goodies, among others, have been set up in every outlet.

Santa's Train, accompanied by mascots and reindeer, visited Shopwise branches to launch the hypermarket's holiday season activities.

The month-long promo that ends Dec. 18 entitles shoppers to pick a reindeer card for a chance to win instant cash from P10 to P500, or Christmas giveaways.

Another activity, the Elves' Arts and Crafts Workshop, will be held 4-6 p.m., Nov. 26-27, at Libis. Kids can participate in balloon sculpting, and make Christmas décor, cards or personalized gifts for friends and family.

Storytelling Santa and his friends will perform "A Christmas Carol," "The Little Match Girl," and "Frosty the Snowman," complete with music, props and sets, 3-4 p.m., Nov. 26 and 27 for Manila and Libis.

Shopwise is at the ground floor of the Harrison Plaza Mall, Manila; M. L. Quezon Avenue cor. Circumferential Road, Antipolo City; ground floor of the Festival Supermall in Alabang; corner of Pasong Tamo and Vito Cruz Streets in Makati; E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave., Bagumbayan, Libis, and corner of General Aguinaldo and McArthur Avenues, Araneta Center, Cubao, Quezon City.

SHOPWISE transformed its stores into a Christmas wonderland.

Ford's 2005 Green Awards

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

IT WAS IN 2000 THAT FORD Group Philippines gave its first Conservation and Environmental Grants to deserving individuals, organizations and NGOs. Those first years of the program proved so successful that the company decided to continue it.

So this November, for the sixth consecutive year, Ford presented its prestigious awards to its latest batch of grantees, 11 in all, out of 161 entries, the highest number since the grant was launched.

This year, the categories were Natural Environment, Heritage, Conservation Engineering, and Child and Youth. In that setup, two or three grantees may fall under one category, as has happened this year.

Ford's environmental awards come in the form of cash and plaques of recognition. Past awardees have used the financial award to develop or install their projects, all of them reporting success stories so far. The cash awards this year amounted to P2.5 million distributed among the 11 beneficiaries.

Under the Child and Youth category were Haribon Foundation for its project of engaging the youth in biodiversity conservation, an advocacy against illegal wildlife trade, and the Pawikan: Pawiin sa Karagatan project initiated by Arsenio Flores Jr. to engage people, especially the youth, of San Juan, Batangas, to protect the sea turtles in their waters.

The Conservation Engineering Award went to the Cabiokid (acronym for Cabiao, a town in Nueva Ecija, bio, and *bukid*, Tagalog for field), for its bamboo building project, and to the Nutrition Center of the Philippines for initiating small-scale solid waste management in a rural community—Barangay Bayog, Los Baños, Laguna.

Past winners used their cash awards for projects that reportedly had all been successful

The Heritage Award went to three organizations, two of them engaged in documenting Filipino culture and traditions. The first, Team Tomonah, published a book about the Ifugao rice culture from the perspective of young Ifugaos. The second, Center for Environmental Awareness and Education (CEAE), won it for organizing the Moonrise Environmental Documentary Film Festival last year. It promised to use the cash award to organize the second edition of the festival this year. The third is the City of Sta. Rosa in Laguna for its project to conserve a historical site, the Cuartel de Santo Domingo.

Natural winners

Three other organizations received awards under the Natural Environment category: the Katala Foundation, which is establishing a research and conservation center for the protection of endangered ecosystems and species in Palawan; Bantay Kalikasan for setting up the Ford Arboretum of Philippine Endangered and Unique Tree Species at the La Mesa Nature Reserve; and the Mother Earth Foundation for its project to produce a video documentary that stresses the need to protect Mt. Banahaw, Luzon, considered a sacred mountain.

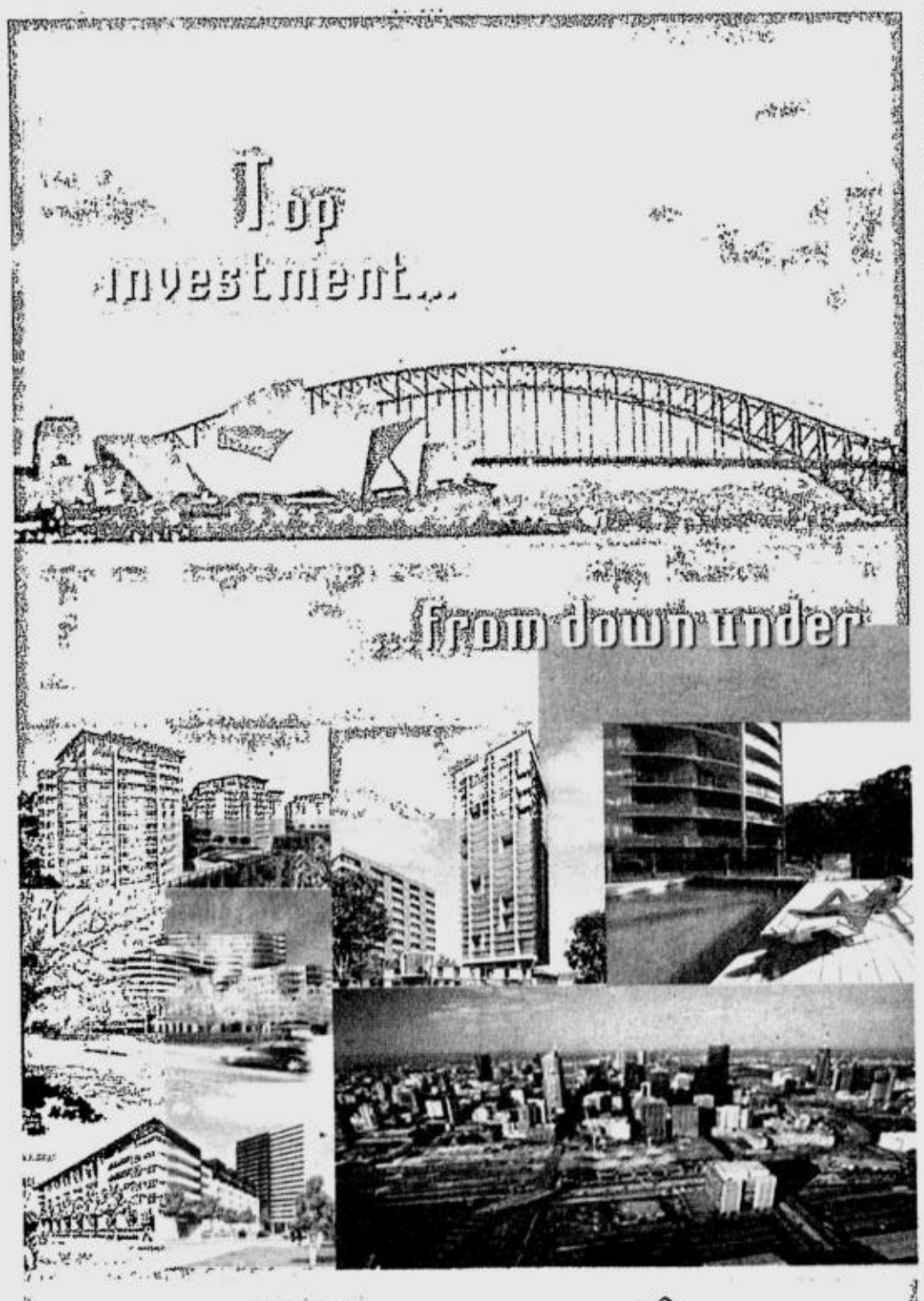
A project endeavoring to rehabilitate lahar areas through vegetable farming, animal raising and aquaculture won an award under the Technology Utilization and Livelihood Assistance to Yeomanry. The award will be used to set up the farming systems, procure the seeds and other materials needed for lahar cultivation.

In explaining why a big international company like Ford has given the environment prominence in its business priorities, Henry T. Co, president of Ford Group Philippines, stated that such priorities "reflect our focus and commitment in this area.... [for] tackling environmental and social issues is not something a company does after it becomes successful, it must be something we do to be successful."

He added that Ford is greatly concerned about global climate change, and while "this and fuel economy pose a particular challenge to our industry, we continue to set the pace on [such practices as] reducing water consumption, conserving energy, recycling and reusing non-renewable materials." This is why the company became the first automaker to receive ISO 14001 environmental certification at all its facilities.

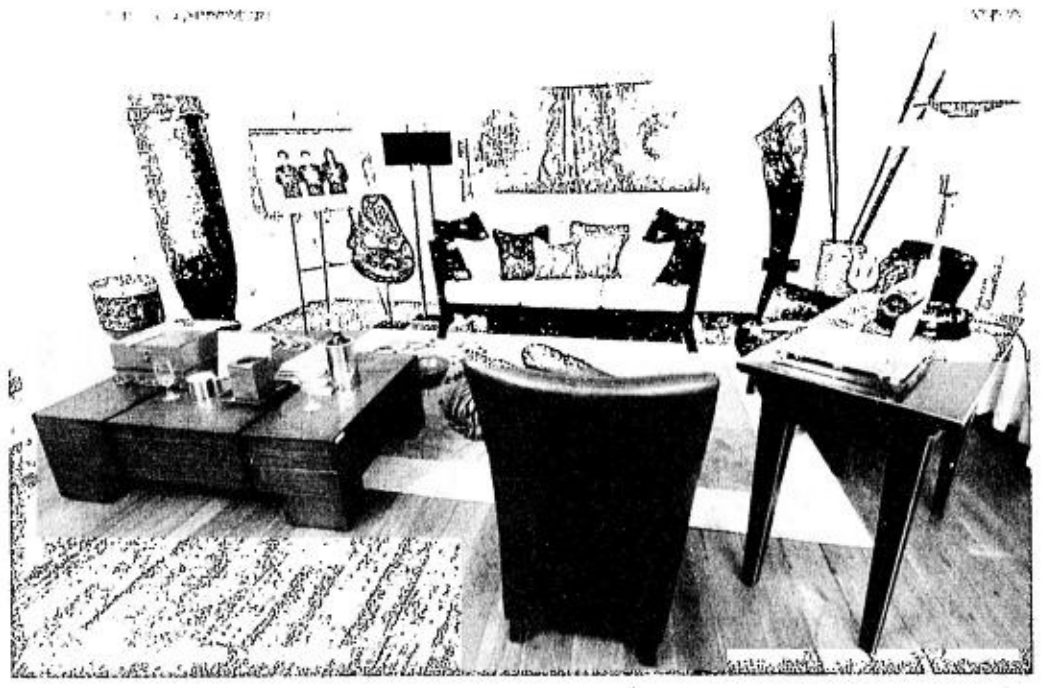
The award ceremony, held at the Hyatt Hotel Manila, was attended by Philippine government representatives, Ford Philippines officials, and environmentalists.

E-mail the author at dorisnuyda@yahoo.com



STUDY room/library for former President Fidel V. Ramos designed by Alice Erfe of Erfe's Designer Furnishing Shop and Lynette Ngo of Haute Designs

PHOTOS: MANDY NAVASERO



DEN for the boys (Hajji Alejandro, Rico J. Puno and Rey Valera) designed by Nina Santamaria of Grupo Santamaria and James Razo

FORMER President Fidel V. Ramos

Design center turns two

THE LRI BUSINESS PLAZA, A LIFEstyle and design center at 210 Nicanor Garcia St. (formerly Reposo St.) in Makati City, is marking its second anniversary with various activities until Dec. 8.

The event is called "Lifestyle in Motion." Art and design enthusiasts, architects, interior designers, and other interested persons are invited to participate.

LRI Business Plaza has a special mix of 28 enterprises, including furniture, furnishings, carpets, lighting systems, antiques, office furniture, art galleries, photography studio, modular kitchen systems, fabrics and coverings, pottery, restaurants, a kiosk, and a foot spa. It has several companies that are among the country's leading exporters.

As part of the celebration, LRI Business Plaza interior designers present the "Celebrity Lifestyle Showcase."

Architect Alice Erfe and Lynette Ngo execute a study/library for former President Fidel V. Ramos. Paolo and Sarah Castillo will handle Kuh Ledesma's dream bedroom while Dottie Labao and Audi Salva will design a kitchen for Nancy Reyes.

Nina Santamaria and Mahal Amanda Adams will create a dining room for Sonya Garcia of Sonya's Garden; Maya Padiernos and Derrick Dandan, a living room for Angel Aquino; and Tara Domingo and Pam Agabin, a lanai for Gina Lopez.

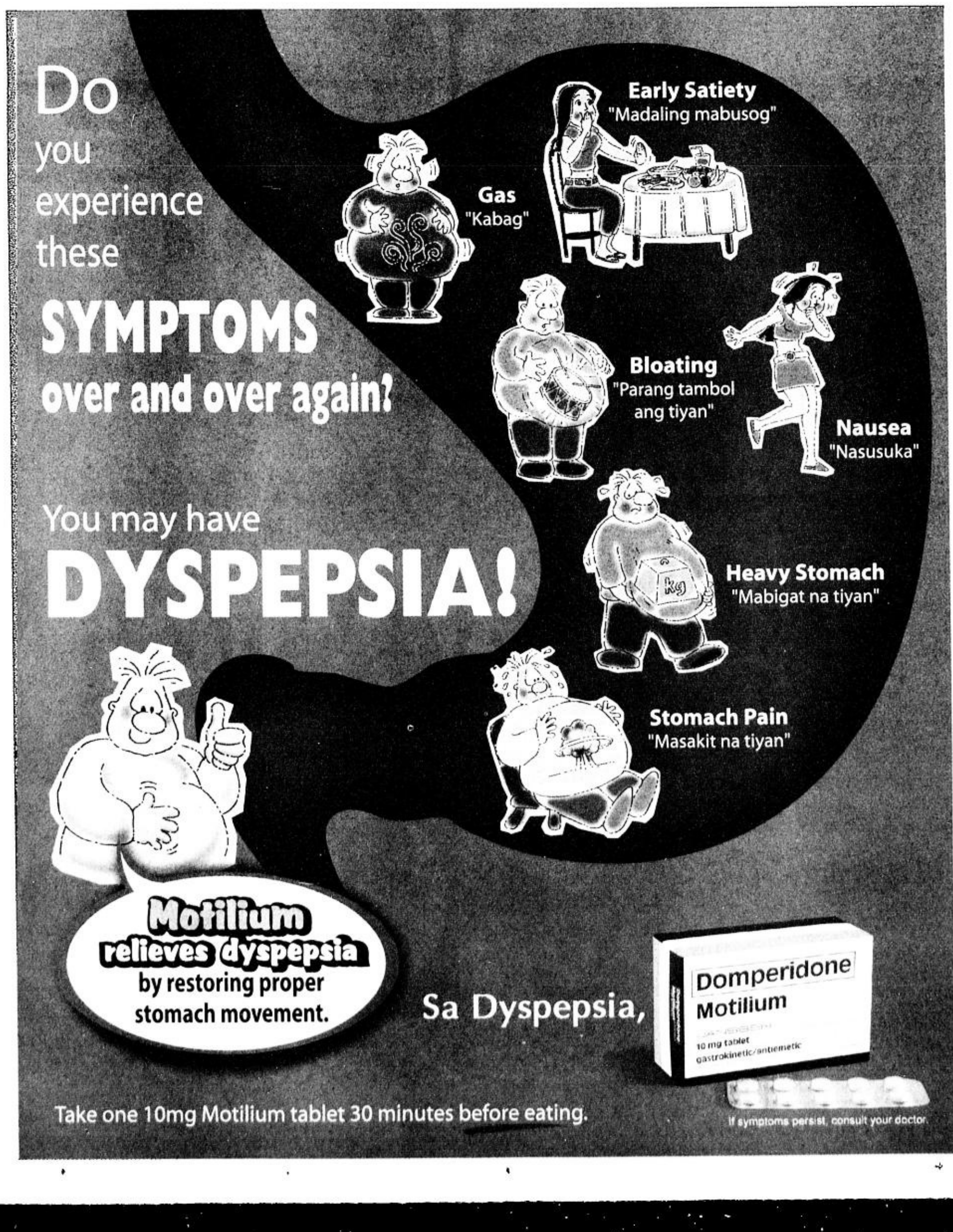
Guest presentors of LRI are sculptor and kinetic artist Gabriel Barredo; fashion designer Yvonne Quisumbing-Romulo, who is presenting her first solo exhibit of wearable art; Juan Caguicla, a young photographer; Rom Villaseran, acclaimed surreal painter. Galerie Astra presents sculptures.

Photographer Mandy Navasero mounts "Celebrities Reading" featuring 20 personalities in their favorite activity, reading.

All shows are presented on the second floor of LRI Business Plaza.

The event will have a weekend Pie-Christmas Bazaar, Dec. 3-4. Venue is the LRI Business Plaza parking space in front.

Call 8951772 or 8955470.



How to make your child obey you

IN THE CURRENT ISSUE OF BABY Magazine, the country's ultimate guide for new parents, educator Marita Villafuerte discusses basics that parents need to know to be able to make their children follow them.

"If the parent knows his authority and uses this properly, he will have well-disciplined children," Marita writes in her "I am a child" column in the monthly magazine.

In the same issue, childbirth instructor Rome Kanapi creates a list for spouses of expecting ladies. She lists "everything partners need to know about the expectant mom."

Dr. Donna Pangilinan-Simpao writes a special feature on 10 must-haves for breastfeeding moms. Find out interesting gadgets and garments that make this wonderful bonding activity easier to do.

Obstetrician-gynecologist Rebecca Singson writes about the vital ingredients for the pregnant lady to take. Pregnancy is "a critical time to be equipped with the necessary micronutrients to prevent damage to the growing fetus as well as to the mother herself."

Baby skin expert Dr. Marivi Dizon talks about care of baby's skin with the coming of the cool season, while toy expert Kim Altarejos discusses that toys need not be gender-specific. Altarejos talks about how boys and girls look at a toy differently and that toys traditionally associated for girls can actually interest boys.

Educhild or Education for the Upbringing of Children debuts in a section of the current issue of Baby Magazine. Educhild is based in Switzerland and has been in the Philippines for almost 30 years. It has assisted numerous parents and educators on family life and parenting via its courses.

On the lighter side, Baby Mag features the baptism of Sea Princess' Athena plus fashion and shopping guides.

Baby Magazine is available in Baby Company sections of all SM department stores, National Book Store outlets, specialty shops like Babyland and Baby & Co. at the Rockwell Power Plant Mall and The Podium. Call 7283655 to 56.

WORLD TRADE CENTER, 10:00 AM - 8:00 PM
NOV 27, 2005
ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED!
Present this coupon for free entrance!

'Seeing' 101

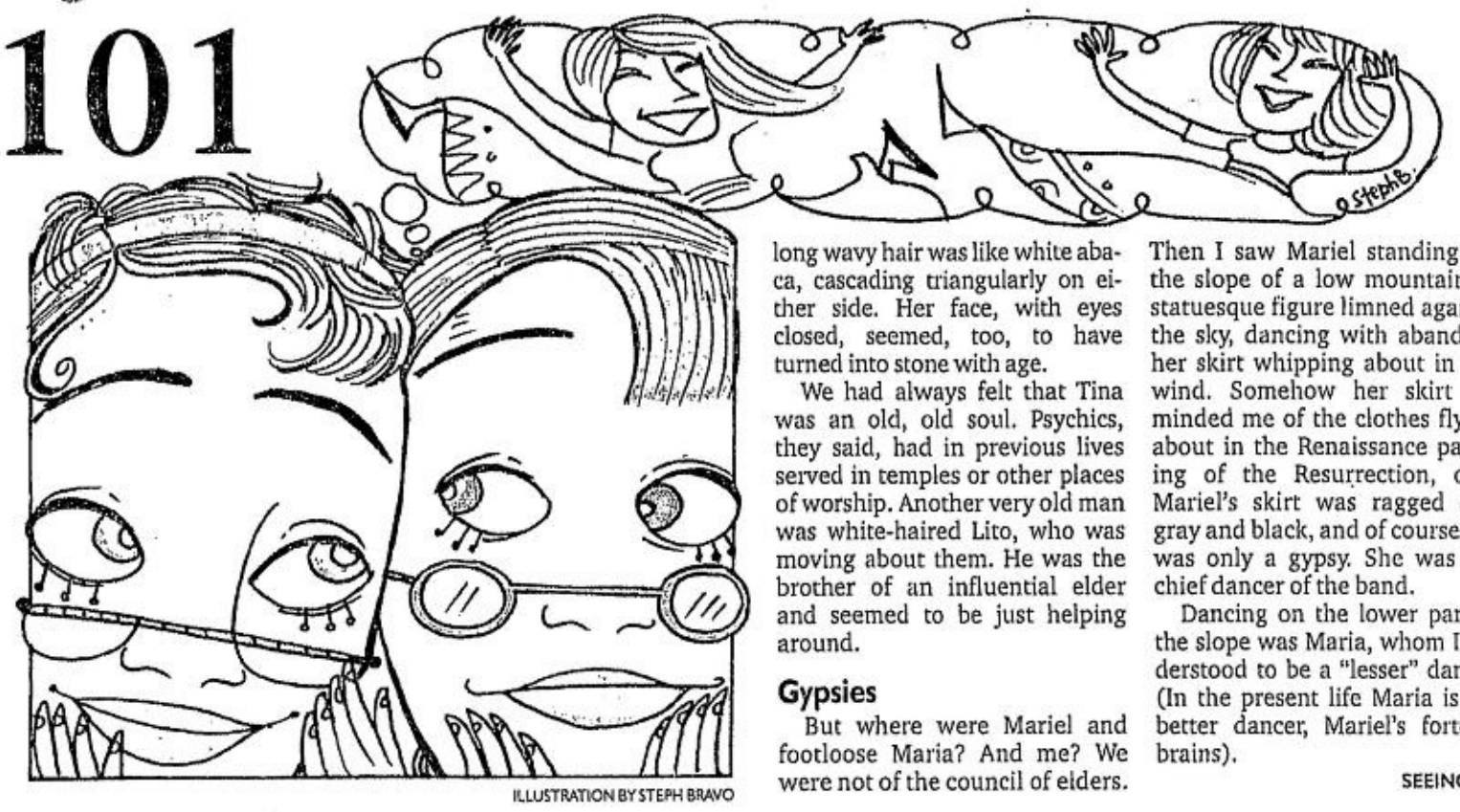


ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

By Gilda Cordero-Fernando

THAT DAY, I TRIED, as in past years, to figure out who the people in my study group were in my past life. I refer, of course, to Nicky Perlas, Jake, Brenda, Manny, Mary Joan, Bella, Grace, Lito, Tina, Maria, and Mariel—with whom I was studying the works of the philosopher and clairvoyant Rudolf Steiner.

Except for Mariel's, the personalities of those in the study group were so very different from people I usually gravitated to. Reserved, esoteric and highly cerebral, "head" types, if you please, they were dedicated to the path, indulging no detours. Borderline ascetics, practically monks and nuns!

How did I, sociable and trendy me, prone to fanciful excesses, ever get mixed up with solemnity like that! On the other hand, why, pray, had they moved apart to create a space for Mariel and me in their tight little circle? The time I speak about was when we had been in study together for four years.

Who are you? I would ask them aloud many times, puzzled at the close communion and love I had for them. Why this bonding, where did it come from, had we met in a life before? They smiled and indulged me and we moved on to the next chapter.

Nicky was right. If you asked often enough and persistently

Who are you, why this bonding, where did it come from, had we met in a life before?

enough, you would get an answer.

Elders

One morning I did. I had wakened up early to meditate, while the dew was still upon my heart. And it came. With my eyes closed, I saw us in a kind of plateau with mountains beyond. I could make out the group sitting on big flat stones of different levels in an irregular circle.

Their faces became clear one by one. Grace, then Mary Joan, then Manny. Next Brenda, Nicky and Tina. I understood them to be a council of elders of a tribe. The responsibility of the council of elders is to preserve the memories of the tribe, its values and myths. (But what tribe? Not Philippine, it felt too cold).

Surprisingly the oldest in the council was not Nicky (who, in real life, is the guru of our group) but Jake, the homeopathic healer. In my revelation Jake was a sage, immobile and antique, his face like carved stone, the lids of his upslanted eyes crumbling. Psychic Tina (actually the youngest in the study group) was, in the meditation, almost as old as Jake. Her long wavy hair was like white abaca, cascading triangularly on either side. Her face, with eyes closed, seemed, too, to have turned into stone with age.

We had always felt that Tina was an old, old soul. Psychics, they said, had in previous lives served in temples or other places of worship. Another very old man was white-haired Lito, who was moving about them. He was the brother of an influential elder and seemed to be just helping around.

Gypsies

But where were Mariel and footloose Maria? And me? We were not of the council of elders. Then I saw Mariel standing on the slope of a low mountain, a statuesque figure limned against the sky, dancing with abandon, her skirt whipping about in the wind. Somehow her skirt reminded me of the clothes flying about in the Renaissance painting of the Resurrection, only Mariel's skirt was ragged and gray and black, and of course she was only a gypsy. She was the chief dancer of the band.

Dancing on the lower part of the slope was Maria, whom I understood to be a "lesser" dancer. (In the present life Maria is the better dancer, Mariel's forte is brains).

SEEING/ G2

Prevention of High blood pressure or Diabetes is through REGULATED WEIGHT!
Still the No. 1 Herbal Slimming Tea
• Senna • Shiu Sen Tea • Malvae •
Kankunis Herb Tea
Got FREE samples of GENIAL DEW Guava & Ampalaya Herbal Tea (to prevent Diabetes or Hypertension) with every can of Kankunis and save as much as P24.00
Hurry! Limited offer only.
Kankunis® Herbal Slimming Tea
and other leading drugstores & supermarket

INTIMATE NOVEMBER
Our Promo, ROOM for as low as P1,450 net per person on twin sharing
INCLUSIONS
• Room accommodation • Full Buffet Breakfast at Le Jardin Restaurant or Spa service at Body & Face by Mendez • Use of Roofdeck / Swimming Pool & Gym

City Garden Hotel
Makati
Makati cor. Kalayaan Avenues, Makati City • Tel. No.: 899-1111
E-mail: makati@citygardenhotels.com • www.citygardenhotels.com

CROSSINGS www.crossings.com.ph Shangri-la Plaza Mall • Quezon Avenue • C. Raymundo, Pasig
THE NEW CROSSINGS

Fool in love?

EMILY'S POST

Emily A. Marcelo

DEAR EMILY,

Call me Zero because that's what my life amounts to.

I met Heart at a party and we started our relationship. She was already pregnant when she and her old boyfriend broke up.

I fell in love with her immediately and told her I'd assume responsibility for her child. I know that's crazy, but I was blindly in love with her. I took my promise seriously and treated the baby like my own.

We were happy for three years—till now. She began to treat me coldly, picking a fight for no reason at all. Our silences grew longer until I discovered that she had been entertaining a suitor.

When I left to cool off for a few weeks, I learned that she and her suitor had started a relationship.

Since I had to budget my earnings for our household expenses and didn't have much to spare for her whims, I was hurt that her relatives encouraged her to leave me and go with this guy who had more money.

In spite of that, I wooed her back because I really loved her. She told me she's pregnant with my child. But her present boyfriend, who had asked her to marry him and had set their wedding for December, said he would assume responsibility for the child this time.

I was so sad when I heard this that I wanted to kill myself. The last time we talked, she said she wasn't happy with the guy and he had canceled their wedding. She asked me if I'd take her back.

I don't know what to do now. Should I take her back knowing she had an affair with this guy and that I'd always be thinking of how she broke my heart? Or should I forget her and move on and completely change my life?

I love her so much but I don't know if I can take what she did to me this time.

ZERO

If only life were that simple, it'd be so easy to move on and forget every person who broke our heart.

But things happen for a purpose and memories in our minds and hearts can't be wiped off as easily as on a white board. Hurts and disappointments get embedded for a while until time heals them and they become just memories.

But there are collateral issues involved in this relationship with your "wandering" girlfriend that cannot be ignored—like your adopted child and this child she's carrying that she claims is yours.

She seems to have a history of "shopping" around and dropping boyfriends when she's pregnant. But isn't she lucky to have someone like you on standby to see her through the most vulnerable stages in her life?

Talk to her seriously and lay your cards on the table. It's about time she takes responsibility for her actions. Or something might be lacking in her relationship with you and she is looking for it in other men.

Could it all be money? Do you challenge her enough or do you follow her like a lovesick puppy and runs to her at the sound of her voice? It's nice to be desired and spoiled, but some women get bored with that. They like the challenge of a strong-willed man.

You're the only person who can decide whether to take her back or not. Do not depend on others to make the decision for you. It's nobody else's business but yours.

If you truly love her despite her stupidity, take her back but please, don't play the blame game. Love her again as you did before, warts and all. Either accept her completely or not at all.

But if you think you cannot stop harking back to the past and pointing at your girlfriend with an accusing finger every time you get pangs of jealousy, then better break loose now before the second chapter in your life with her starts. You are still so young and already so unhappy! Just remember—life is very, very short!

E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph, Subject: Lifestyle, or send your letters to INQUIRER. Listen to Ms Marcelo co-host the program "Kalikasan Vigilante," 7:15-8:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, on dwBR 104.3 FM.

Pink Sisters hold annual Eucharistic Congress Nov. 28

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

THE "PINK SISTERS," so called because of their pink habit, are committed to the adoration of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

I remember that when we used to go to Baguio, we would kneel inside the Pink Sisters' chapel on Brent Road and listen to them singing and praying the Lauds.

The Pink Sisters on Hemady Road, New Manila, on the other hand, are committed to holding a one day Eucharistic Congress every year. This year, it will be held 7 a.m.-5 p.m., Nov. 28. Bishop Ronnie Bancud will officiate at a Concelebrated Mass at 4 p.m.

Mona Lacandale, president of the Eucharistic Adorers League, told me they were expecting a thousand people would listen to Rev. Poly Ty, SSS; Rev. Manoling Francisco, SJ; and Bishop Bancud share their insights on the Eucharist. There will be periods of adoration, reflection and liturgical prayer.

Now on its 18th year, the annual Eucharistic Congress started on Nov. 30, 1987 and has drawn many devout souls to the Eucharistic Lord. The Holy Spirit Adoration Sisters, the "Pink Sisters," became their "prayer partners." The Sisters' apostolate is to adore, praise, thank and make reparation to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

In 1965 the late Cardinal Rufino Santos invited them to Manila to be the center of Eucharistic worship. He entrusted the Sisters to pray for the intentions of the archdiocese. His successor, Cardinal Jaime Sin of blessed memory, always called them his "praying army," supporting his urgent need for prayers.

The order was founded specifically to assist the other two mission congregations of St. Arnold Jannsen— the Society of the Divine Word and Sister Servants of the Holy Spirit. The Sisters join our people with Mary, our Mother, through the transforming power of the Eucharist to foster a culture of peace, renewal and reconciliation

Retreat

Theological Centrum will hold a retreat for diocesan priests 11 a.m., Dec. 5, to breakfast time, Dec. 8, at the Makiling Conference Center, Calamba, Laguna. Diocesan priests are invited.

Rev. Fr. Julio Peñacoba will preach the meditations. Guest speakers will talk on the "Priest's Relationship with the Bishop" and the "Priest's Relationship with his Brother Priests."

Theological Centrum is a project of the Studium Theologiae Foundation, Inc., a combined effort of several lay people, some priests of the Priestly Society of the Holy Cross and other diocesan clergy. It offers to priests and seminarians opportunities to receive ongoing formation as greatly encouraged by Vatican II.

Call 6356113 or fax 6348590. E-mail theocent @uplink. com.ph

Walk with Mary

At least 1,300 young and old people from all walks of life joined the "Walk with Mary," Oct. 22, at the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal in Posadas Village, Muntinlupa. Led by the Vincentian Parish Youth Ministry, the walk began at the parking area of Brittany Bay along Posadas Ave.

Donors like Mr. and Ms Rafael Limcaoco, Mr and Ms Manny Palaganas, Cosette Reyes, Mina Reyes, Mr and Ms Tony Lugue made possible the giving away of kits with sandwiches, drinks, Walk with Mary T-shirts and rosaries.

The project also included a sports festival featuring volleyball and basketball games among six groups. The elimination rounds were held Oct. 15-16, while the championships were held right after the walk. In both games, Marillac won first place.

The sports fest was sponsored by Swiss Alps, Tom Meneses, Ichay Bulaong and Ever Safe Water.

Our Lady in Cebu

The replica image of Our Lady of Caysasay was brought to Cebu from Taal for the Perpetual Dawn Rosary Procession and Congress, Nov. 11-14, at the Theotokos Shrine.

Theotokos is Greek for Mother of God. The shrine was built on top of a mountain in Carcar in the 1990s. Brother Joe Rona, mariologist and visionary, conducted a seminar workshop on The Third Secret of Fatima, The Role of Our Lady of Caysasay, The Role of the Filipinos in the Third Millennium and The Secret of the Triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Our Lady of Caysasay is still in Cebu and will be moving around the different communities for one year until the next convention in November, 2006.

Eighteen delegates from Luzon, led by Marietta Goco, brought replicas. People came from Bohol, Masbate, Gingoog, Dipolog, Surigao, Agusan, Bukidnon and General Santos. This is the first time that there were delegates from Luzon.

Dingdong Pesayco, area manager of PLDT, welcomed the Virgin and the Luzon delegates at the airport. Fr. John Rona is the rector of the shrine.

Visit

Our Lady of Caysasay will visit San Roque Parish in Mandaluyong for nine days Nov. 30-Dec. 8, her feast day.

A chapel dedicated to Our Lady will be blessed by Archbishop Ramon Arguelles, 12 noon, Dec. 2, at the Philippine Information Agency on Visayas Avenue, Quezon City.

Blessing

Ozamis Archbishop Jesus Dosado will bless the new altar and main door of the Immaculate Conception Church in Dasmariñas, Cavite, 9 a.m., Nov. 28.

Bishop Chito Tagle will be the homilist.

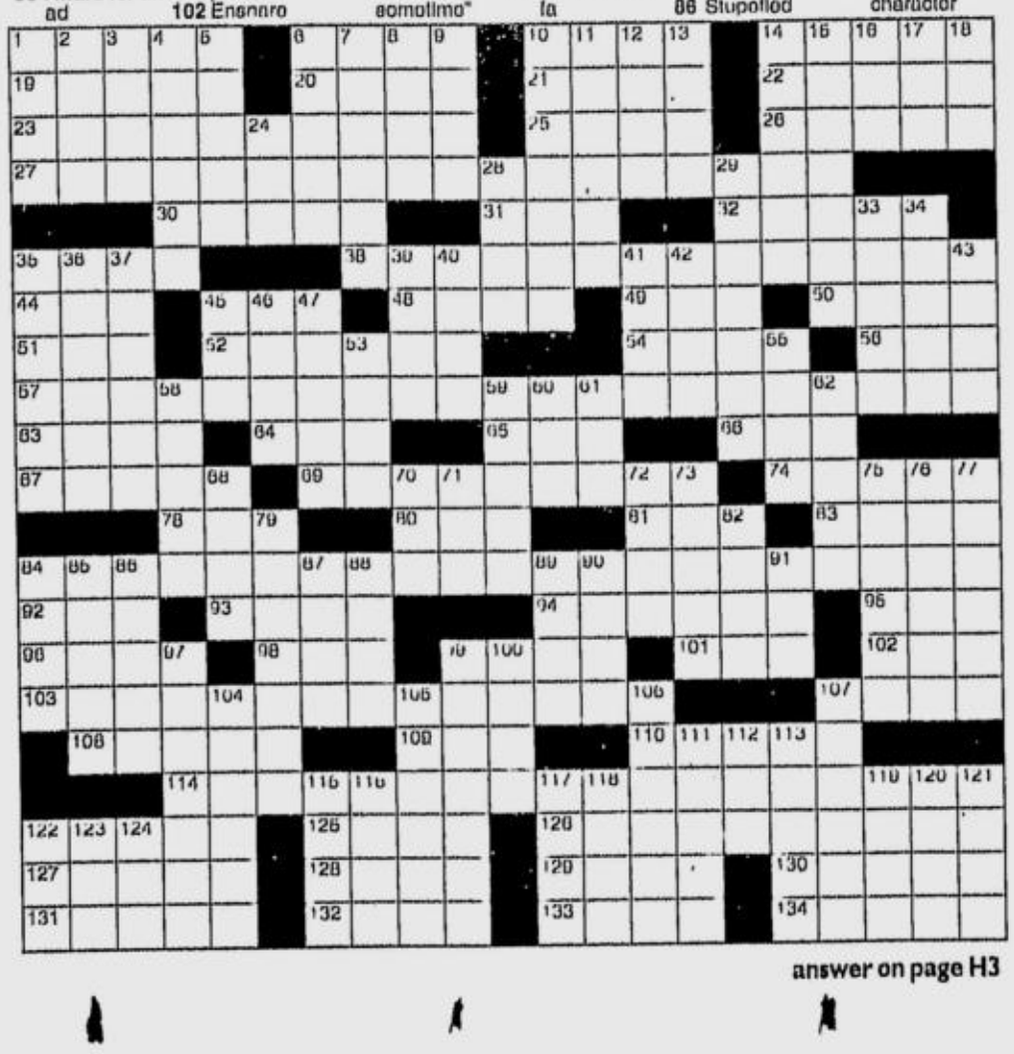
The parish was established by Her Most Catholic Majesty Queen Isabella II by virtue of a Royal Order dated Oct. 21, 1866. Fiesta is Dec. 8.

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo — FOR THE PAST

ACROSS
1 False name
6 Deplet with bias
10 Pinpoints
14 Some preppy shirts
19 — Borneo (classic card game)
20 New Age musician John
21 Norway's largest city
22 Church areas with pews
23 Wilmington suburb on the Delaware
25 Old Russian bigwig
26 See 6-Down
27 Start of a riddle
30 Like an untended garden
31 Chemical suffix
32 Sedans, e.g.
35 Health clubs
36 Riddle, part 2
44 Pig digs
45 — tal cocktail
48 Otherwise
49 Ease, with "up"
50 Award for an ad
51 Race part
52 Canal or country
54 Notable times
56 Child-care author LaShan
57 Riddle, part 3
63 Crout's neighbor
64 Drench
65 Lupino of "High Sierra"
66 Dress in
67 German writer Hermann
69 Riddle, part 4
74 Tarnish
78 There are two in "all"
80 Infuriation
81 Opposite of SSE
83 Winter blanket?
84 End of the riddle
92 Attila the —
93 Future flower
94 Bellybuttons
95 Corrida cry
96 Qatari, e.g.
98 Jeff Lynne's rock gp.
99 Skirt feature
101 Tolley product
102 Ensnare
103 Start of riddle's answer
107 Dick Tracy's love
108 Have a hunch
109 Loud noise
110 "I love," in Lille
114 End of riddle's answer
122 Open, as a purse
125 Starting from the date
126 Password's cousin
127 Actress Demi
128 Go to sea
129 Small criticisms, slangily
130 Dwarf count
131 Gussy up
132 Flying toy
133 General idea
134 Coeur d'—, Idaho

DOWN
1 Prefix with dextrous
2 Willingly
3 Evils
4 Permits
5 "Come up and — sometime"
6 With 26-Across, was noticeably different
7 Saxophone star
8 Punta del — (resort in Uruguay)
9 "That was close!"
10 Never
11 One omitting
12 "Gli —" (Le Sage novel)
13 Milled
14 "Rub-a-dub-dub, three men —"
15 Mexican Indian
16 Eggs, to a biologist
17 German article
18 Barrier-breaking jet
24 Service charge
28 Cuts down
29 Sneaking coward
33 Rude starer
34 "You — mouthful!"
35 Movie featuring a mermaid
36 Li'l folks
37 Enrages
39 Notes before fa
40 Norwegian royal name
41 Cassini of fashion
42 Guy hauled to jail
43 Linguist Chomsky
45 Abbr. in car ads
46 Sighs of relief
47 Being pulled behind
53 Sacred river in "Kubla Khan"
55 Fire damage
58 Playwright Henrik
59 Neap and ebb
60 Bride's vow
61 Negative vote
62 Grind, as teeth
68 Part of BPOE
70 Smog soils it
71 Three, in Pisa
72 "As soon —"
73 Not yet fulfilled
75 Chant
76 Earls, e.g.
77 Neat notes
79 Pittsburgh griddor
82 Schome
84 Siamese
85 Injures
86 Stupefied
87 Had in hand
88 Biblical kingdom
89 Textbook division
90 Wood strip
91 Cookie-selling org.
97 Pep rally feature
99 1960s British pop music
100 Singer Horne
104 PGA event
105 Skillful
106 Expels
107 Old Toyota
111 "Give it —!" ("Enough already!")
112 Possibilities
113 — golden opportunity
115 Disguise
116 Morales of "La Bamba"
117 Chimed
118 Nero's 1,102
119 Relocate
120 Where Adam erred
121 Russo of "Tin Cup"
122 Show official
123 Here-there linkup
124 Orange "Sesame Street" character



answer on page H3

Rizal High holds grand homecoming

RIZAL HIGH SCHOOL CELEBRATES 100 years with the coffee-table book "RHS Centennial Book" to be launched at the RHS grand alumni homecoming, at 1 p.m., Dec. 3, at the RHS Gym, Barangay Canlogan, Pasig.

The book, spearheaded by RHS centennial committee and RHS Class '61, was jointly edited by Rosalina de la Paz-Magat of Class '66 and Pablo Jocson of Class '61. It tells the story of the school's first 100 years and includes Sen. Jovito Salonga's memoirs of his student days at RHS.

RHS has been listed in the Guinness Book of Records since 1993 as the secondary school with the biggest student population.

Aside from Salonga, other notable graduates were former Senators Neptali Gonzales and Rene Saguisag, national artists Carlos "Botong" Francisco and Lucio San Pedro, Social Security System president Corazon Santos-de la Paz, Philippine Airlines presidents Dante Santos and Avelino Zapanta, former labor secretary Augusto "Bobbit" Sanchez, Ambassador Rodolfo Sanchez, Associate Justice Raoul Victorino, Gen. Ernesto Carolina, former Rep. Frisco San Juan, and painter Jose Blanco.

Call 0919-7675715, 0917-8050972 or 0917-4909444.

Seeing 101

From page G1

These two gypsies, Mariel and Maria, often dropped in on the elders, mostly to get a free meal, and the elders welcomed them because gypsies, too, were seers. They invigorated the elders with an exchange of experiences. When Mariel and Maria could no longer cadge food from the tribe, it was me, a child, whom they sent over to beg.

I saw myself, 12 years old, curly haired and also a dirty gypsy, running errands. I could even see the glass bangles on my wrist (green, brown, light blue) encrusted with dirt. I did a lot of household chores like taking care of the sheep and fetching water in wooden buckets, and helping in the kitchen.

These tasks I didn't particularly like because I had an irascible and unpleasant mother in Lily (in real life an artist friend with whom I once had a falling out). She was talented and frustrated and odd, she was cooking in one of the tents, half naked, and was always talking harshly. Offie (another friend) was also one of the cooks, a disturbed and hostile gypsy, always in the dark part of the tent.

I went to the elders to exchange buckets of water, firewood I had gathered, and our sheep's milk with dried game or a big black dried fish wrapped in leaves. The elders were ever kind. Besides, they were too old and too lazy to do those chores themselves. (In Kathmandu I saw the selfsame black fish, covered with flies, being sold in the temple square.)

Missionary

But where was Bella, who was also one of the study group? She was neither of the council of elders nor of the gypsy band. Then I saw her. Looking the same as she did now, with her round glasses and conservative dress. She was a Christian missionary!

Bella was out to convert the gypsies whom she knew to be a lying and thieving lot. They were rather hostile to her but I had made friends with Bella because I wanted her to teach me how to write (I even saw the ruled paper she taught me to write on). When lonely, Bella would sit on a rock overlooking the council place, gazing longingly at the elders whom she could not penetrate because they had their own beliefs which were animistic. (In this life, of course, she has married its leader, Jake, who was the focus then of her attention.) End of meditation.

I have never questioned the authenticity of this revelation, a direct answer to a question I had asked. It was as clear as a movie and I can never forget it. My only doubt was whether I should write about it. Until I found out that so many other people I knew had their own experiences of past lives.

I have since come to the conclusion that not all people "see" the same way. Some "feel" what is being conveyed. Some hear a voice talking. Because I am a very visual person, I see the scene in my mind's eye, in technicolor, with all the details, but no audio.

Some actually see the scene or person, with open eyes, in the room they're in. People, in general, think this is the only way a revelation or vision can be "true," the way they see it depicted in religious paintings. And so they doubt anyone who "sees" any another way.

Altered state

I used to think Jeannie was bluffing when she said she could hear horses' hooves thundering outside the window during a clairvoyant moment. I used to think Chiqui was exaggerating when she could "feel" and count how many spirits there were in the room with us during one meeting (12 uninvited angels!). I used to think that clairvoyant Nonoy was just imagining things until I read Neale Donald Walsch who said that, yes, you need your imagination, too, to see your vision. People with no imagination cannot experience a vision.

One time I described to Boy F the route I "traveled" to get to my vision and he said no, that's not how it goes. So for a long time I doubted myself. Maybe I was just deluded? Later, I came to the conclusion that I was right and so was he. We were going to the same other-dimension, each in his own individual manner.

In getting to an altered state there are no rules. You experience it with the faculty that is your sharpest. Even in meditation I think there are no rules, just suggestions. I used to think posture mattered a lot because it was so important to Zen. Also that if you had to have music (since silence is better) it should be classical. Until a friend told me that his most profound meditations took place when it was The Beatles playing.

Correct posture and complete silence are ideal for most, but not necessarily for everyone. I connect fastest when I'm doing a creative movement dance, better than sitting still. So it's a meditation dance.

Lyvia, who has gone to countless ashrams all over the world, describes an Osho meditation practice where you drop to the floor after a dance and begin to meditate in whatever position you find yourself in.

I have since learned not to question another's experience. If you doubt too much, the secrets of the universe will never open to you.

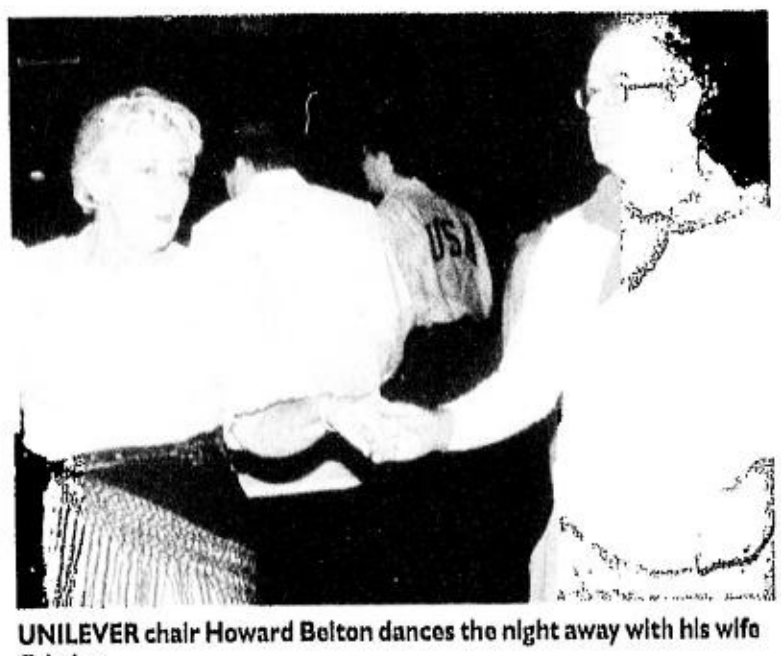
CHACHA Camacho, Japanese Ambassador Ryuichiro Yamasaki, Narda Camacho, Lupe Molina, Ramon Molina, Aurora Sagaz and Spanish Ambassador Ignacio Sagaz

LOUIE Ablaza, chair of Carnavale Venezia; Helen Ong, Nene Leonor, FCCP president Mellie Ablaza, Mexican Ambassador Erendira Aracell Paz Campos, Chilean Ambassador Mario Schuff

Champions of culture and good taste

CONGRATULATIONS ARE in order for Friend of Cultural Concerns of the Philippines (FCCP) president **Mellie Ablaza** and chair **Helen Ong** (and all the other ladies, of course) for their grand fundraiser, Carnevale Venezia, at the NBC Tent.

It was, according to **Tessa V**, the ball of the year and reminiscent of her **Tita Conching**'s great parties. Even more important, the Friends raised the P3 million promised the National Museum. Unfortunately, museum director



UNILEVER chair Howard Belton dances the night away with his wife Cristina.

DIPLOMATIC SWIRL

By Amiga

Corn Alvina was in Italy and was not there to receive the ceremonial check.

***

Balikatan president **Narda Camacho**, the grand lady of recycling and garbage, celebrated her birthday at the Mandarin Oriental with a barrio fiesta highlighted by a performance of the Bayanihan National Dance Company, who proved once again their world-class fame. Ambassadors and their spouses joined the dancers in the *tinikling* and the after-dinner ballroom dancing.

Easily the star of the evening was Unilever president **Howard Belton** in his *camisa chino*, red scarf and *balanggot* hat. **Cristina Belton** was another standout; she came in Balintawak, as did many of the other guests. For those with the most colorful costumes, Narda gave 30 cookbooks of Unilever and mango saplings!

***

Angola's National Day was celebrated at the Quezon Ballroom of the Shangri-La Hotel, Makati, with counselor **Flavio Fonseca** flying in from Singapore to represent Ambassador **Elisio de Figueiredo**.

Honorary consul for Angola, **Helen Ong**, organized the reception complete with live music, video show and champagne. She donned the Angola national costume and wore a couple of diamonds.

***

Ayala Museum director **Nina Baker** isn't letting any grass grow under her feet, it seems. Not a week passes that the Museum isn't opening an exhibit or hosting a cultural evening.

Recently, the museum's "Legacy of Saints" program featured **Vicky Vizcarra Amalingan**'s collection of icons as well as textiles from the collection of **Rina Ortiz**.

ARGENTINIAN Ambassador and Ms Mario Schuff do the boogie.

US Embassy Agricultural Counselor David Miller BETOY JOHNSON

Aside from exquisite embroidery, one particular piece of *piña* held everyone's attention because it had a poem embroidered in human hair!

Guests of honor were US Embassy *charge d' affaires* and **Darryl Johnson** and his wife. Ms Johnson gave a short speech on her studies on Philippine textiles.

Convenience and Ease at Your Fingertips

The New SMART Express Machines

As Christmas draws near, we are reminded of how hectic the season and our own lives can be. With all the roles we are constantly juggling day in and day out, our busy schedules could use a bit of help. From small chores like re-loading our cellfones to the satisfaction of simple desires like having the latest MMS download, SMART has thought of another simply amazing innovation that addresses our changing needs.

By visiting selected SMART Wireless Centers we can now perform basic transactions through the new **SMART Express Machines**. This eliminates the need to stand in line for a Customer Care Officer, saving us valuable time and allowing us to proceed at our own pace. Through these Express Machines, you can buy SMART Load for prepaid cellfones or reload our SMART Money account via **Express Cash N' Load**. Activate cellfone features like **roaming, GPRS** and **MMS**, or even view or print your billing statement via **Express Service**.

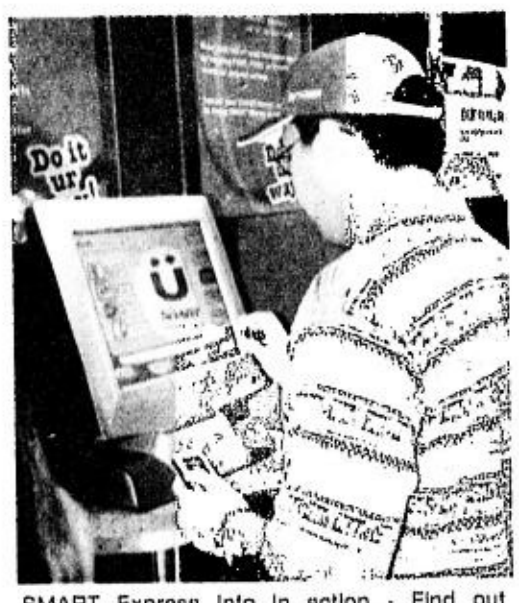
You will also find the **SMART Express Helpline**, a bank of dedicated phones that link you directly to a Customer Care Hotline agent for all your inquiries, requests, or comments.

Jazz up your cellfone by downloading MMS, picture messages, ringtones and ringback tunes by using the **Express Download** option. If you want to find out the hottest and latest from SMART, just keep updated on the newest promos and SMART products by regularly accessing **Express Info**.

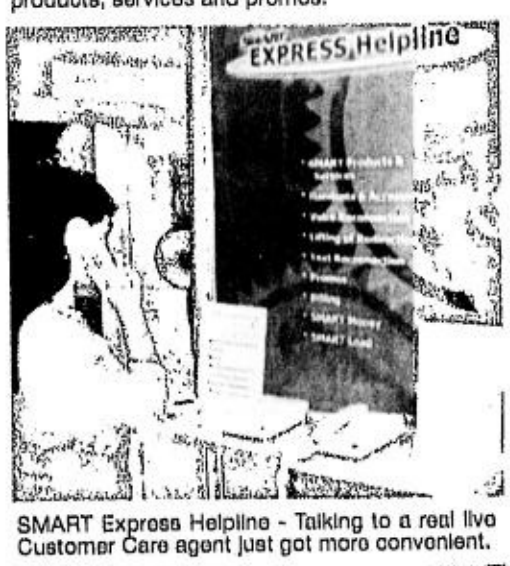
If you're looking for a new cellfone, try **Express Demo** and navigate through new models as you get to know their key features. You'll find it all at the SMART Express Machines.

Initially available at the SMART Wireless Center in SMART Tower, Makati, the service will reach other selected SMART Wireless Centers nationwide beginning next year.

Not only are Express Machines easy to use, they offer a great alternative that will make your customer service experience with SMART a pleasurable one! Receive SMART tokens with each transaction successfully completed, guaranteeing not only convenience but fun as well. Let SMART help you simplify your life by trying out the new SMART Express Machines.



SMART Express Info in action - Find out everything you need on your favorite SMART products, services and promos.



SMART Express Helpline - Talking to a real live Customer Care agent just got more convenient.

EXPRESS Machines

Style. Urban Living. Pop Culture. Entertainment. Recreation.

stay Super

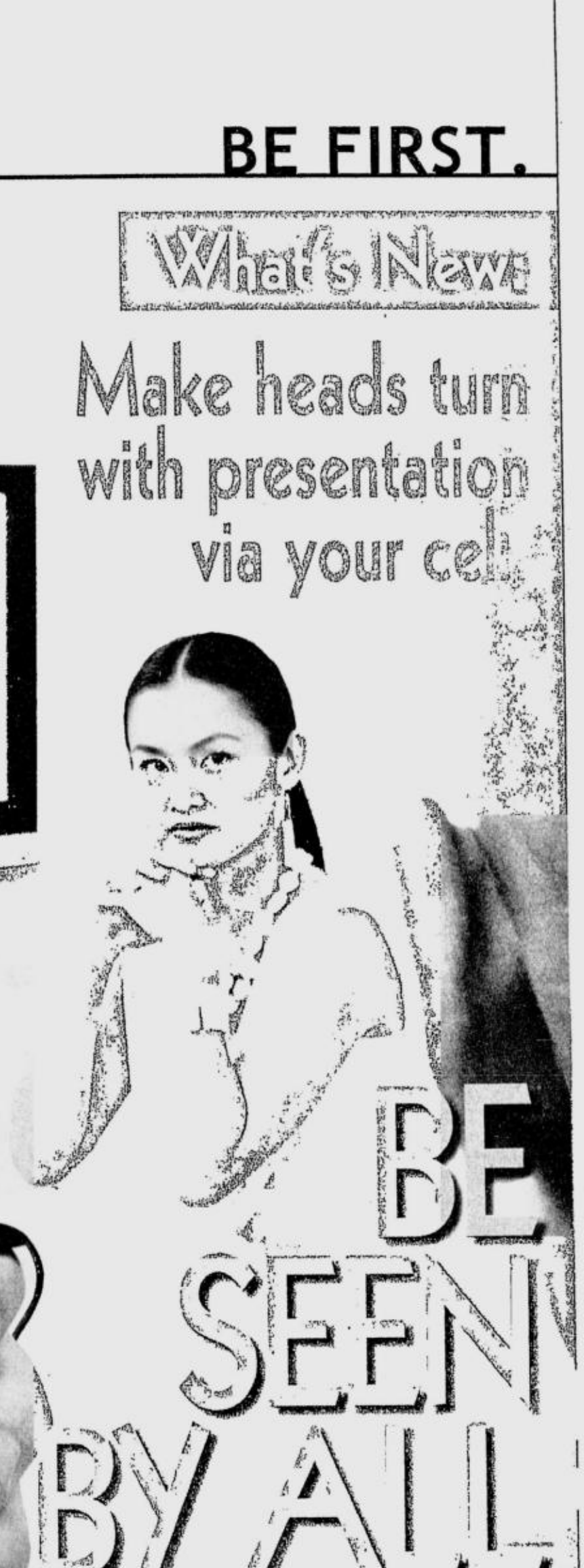
Saturdays with the INQUIRER

hub

BE FIRST.

What's New

Make heads turn with presentation via your cell.



BE SEEN BY ALL

2 Megapixel Camera-Phone with TV output link

- Displays pictures, videos & docu onto your TV screen or projector
- Mobile printing (Bluetooth, Pictbri
- MPEG-4 video recording
- 73MB Internal memory with Trans Flash expandable memory
- Quadband

Samsung D600

Free at G-PLAN 3500

FREE Samsung Photo Printer

Promo period: Nov. 26 - Dec. 31, 2005. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 6721, Series of 2005

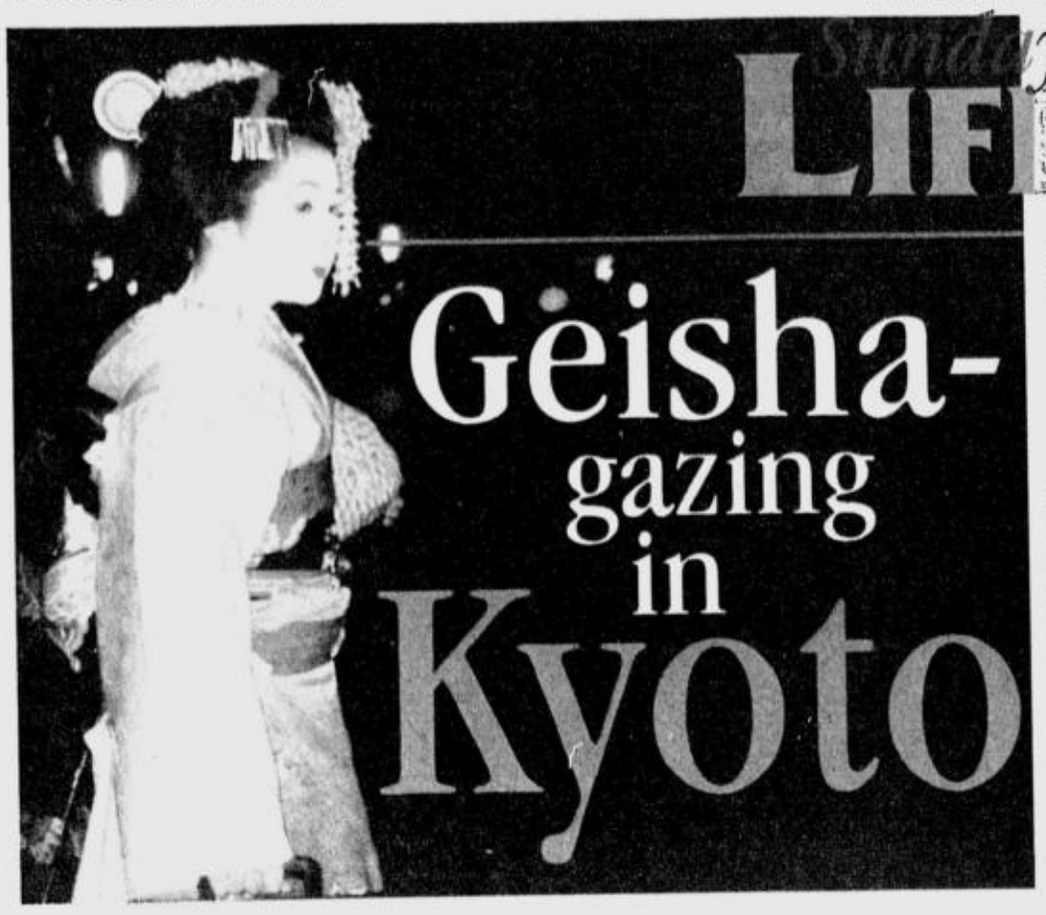
Get the genuine unit only at the HUB, Rockwell, Greenbelt, Glorietta, The Podium, Greenhills. www.hub-eshop.com

SAMSUNG Globe HANDYPHONE

Sunday LIFESTYLE

For feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback:
Inquirer life name/age/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)



Geisha-gazing in Kyoto

Text and photos by Boboy Yonzon

Their painted faces transmuted them into shamanesses who could transport men into another world, a world of dreams.
—Lesley Downer, "Women of the Pleasure Quarters"

I WAS SO INtrigued by the geisha I promised myself next time I had the chance to travel to Japan, I would make sure to go to Kyoto, its ancient capital where the geisha culture evolved, and get just a glimpse of these women of "the flower and willow world."

"Gei-sha" literally means arts people. But some may be shocked to read writer Liza Dalby's summation of a geisha: "Geisha do not marry, but they often have children. They live in organized professional communities of women. They have affairs with married men, and can form liaisons at their own discretion. They derive their livelihood from singing, dancing, and chatting with men at banquets.

"They devote their time to learning and performing traditional forms of music and dance. And they always dress in kimono. In various ways they may be like mistresses, waitresses, hostesses, dancers, or performers."

But are they courtesans or prostitutes? That would make for spirited (pun intended) discussion over sake.

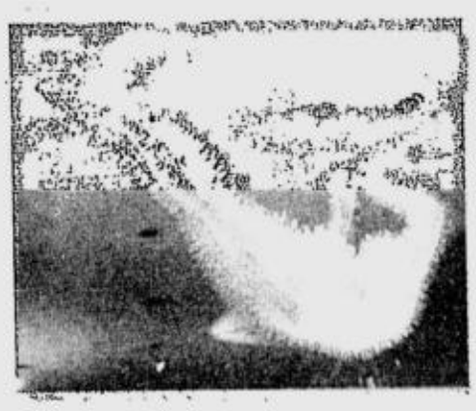
A deluge of books on geisha came out at the start of 2000s. I snapped up a couple of them at Fully Booked, including Downer's "The Secret History of the Geisha: Women of the Pleasure Quarters" (2001); Mineko Iwasaki's autobiography "Geisha, A Life" (2002); and Eleanor Underwood's coffee-table book, "The Life of a Geisha" (2000); This one has a foreword by Dalby, touted to be the only foreigner who has ever trained to become a geisha.

A latecomer to geisha-gazing, I have yet to read Dalby's own book "Geisha" (1983), which has been made into a TV-movie, and Arthur Golden's "Memoirs of

GEISHA/ H4

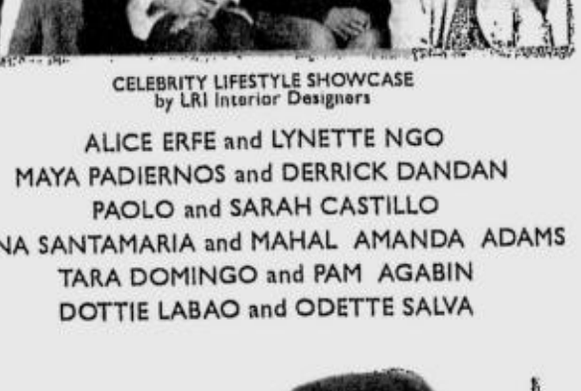
SHOWBIZ ART GALLERIES presents

LIFESTYLE IN MOTION 2005



VISUAL ARTISTS
GABRIEL BARREDO
YVONNE QUISUMBING-ROMULO
ROM VILLASERAN • JUAN CAGUICLA

CELEBRITY LIFESTYLE SHOWCASE
by LRI Interior Designers
ALICE ERFE and LYNETTE NGO
MAYA PADIERNOS and DERRICK DANDAN
PAOLO and SARAH CASTILLO
NINA SANTAMARIA and MAHAL AMANDA ADAMS
TARA DOMINGO and PAM AGABIN
DOTTIE LABAO and ODETTE SALVA



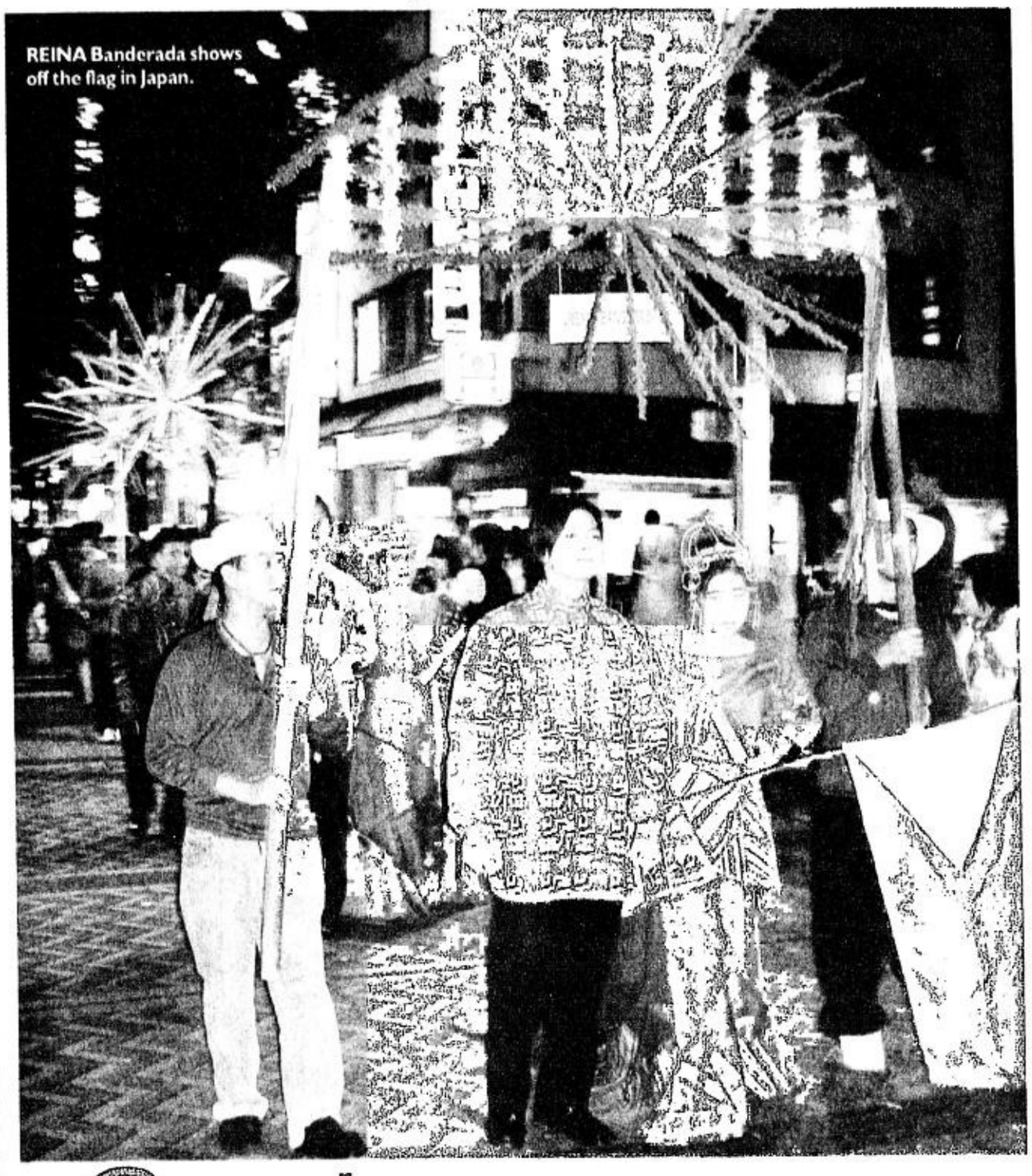
A PHOTO EXHIBIT OF
CELEBRITIES READING
by MANDY NAVASERO

November 17 - December 8 • Open from 10 am - 7 pm
LRI Business Plaza 210 Nicanor Garcia St. (Reposo)
Bel-Air II Makati City 895-1772, 895-5470

Barge Ramos and Steve de Leon show the flair and passion of Filipino costumery in passive Japan

ROSA Mystica and her escort

SANTACRUZAN'S *hermana mayor* Johaida Roa Buenafe assisted by Arnie Tan



REINA Banderada shows off the flag in Japan.

Santacruzan in YOKOHAMA

INFANTA Judith

EMPERATRIZ Elena and her two escorts under one of Ulay Tantoco's arches

MISCA beauty queen Istana Burgos and a hunky Maskulado

Text and photos by Alex Y. Vergara

IT WAS SUMMER AMID AUTUMN when Filipinos recently staged their first-ever Santacruzan in Yokohama, Japan.

Looking resplendent in their Filipiniana finery by fashion designers Barge Ramos and Steve de Leon, the Filipinos braved the nippy air to give their countrymen in Japan a feeling of the merry—and hot—month of May, when the traditional Santacruzan and a host of Marian feasts are held.

Billed as "Flores de las Islas," the event was organized by the Manila International Sister Cities Association (Misca) led by Sylvia Lacuna. Historian and National Commission on Culture and the Arts chair Ambeth Ocampo and award-winning movie director Maryo J. de los Reyes also witnessed the event.

"Filipinos living here wanted something like this," said Lacuna, who was elected Misca president four months ago. "Our Japanese counterparts led by Noboro Ninomiya were very receptive to the idea."

While it usually takes a year before the city approves such events, Yokohama approved the project in just two weeks, Lacuna said. Part of the reason perhaps is the fact that Yokohama hosts the second biggest number of Filipinos in Japan, next to Tokyo.

Apart from seven hunks from the all-male group Maskulados, three Misca beauty queens crowned several months back in Manila graced the event. Several Filipino professionals based in Japan as well as teenaged "Japinos," or children of Japanese and Filipino couples, also participated either as escorts or *sagalas*.

As if the colorful attire of the participants and the intricate bamboo arches and props designed by production designer Ulay Tantoco weren't enough, the spectacle became all the more festive because of the street march and drumming of an *ati-atihan* group.

The merry noisemakers from Pandacan, Manila led fellow Filipinos as they paraded down an outdoor strip in the heart of Yokohama's shopping and entertainment districts, spanning Isezaki-Cho, Naka-Ku Yokohama-Shi and Kanagawa-Ken malls. Yokohama, an hour's drive away from Tokyo, is Japan's second largest city and a chief seaport.

DESIGNERS Barge Ramos, Steve de Leon and Ulay Tantoco with Misca beauty queens Istana Burgos, Claudine de los Reyes and Michelle Torres

REINA Cleopatra and her escort

REINA Abogada with one of the members of Maskulados

REINA Fe and her escort

REINA Esther and her escort

REINA Mora and her escort

CURIOUS Japanese lap up the scene.

Contrast

While most Filipinos lining up the parade's route couldn't contain their excitement at the sight of a homegrown festival transplanted from thousands of miles away, not a few Japanese remained generally impassive to it all. Indeed, the occasion underscored a contrast of cultures and temperaments between the two groups.

"I wasn't surprised at all since unlike us the Japanese are by nature reserved," says Ramos, who did the gentlemen's barongs. "They would hardly stare at you even if you walk down the street wearing something outrageous."

In fact, Lacuna and company consider themselves lucky to have been allowed to bring in a group of noisy—by Japanese standards, anyway—Ati-Atihan. They were set to bring in fireworks and sparklers as well, but were prohibited from doing so by the city due to safety concerns.

"Despite certain missing elements, the pageantry was enough to provide homesick Filipinos some sense of nostalgia," says Tantoco. "The vibrant colors in the middle of fall alone were probably enough to bring them back home."

While De Leon had to squeeze almost a dozen gowns into five suitcases, Tantoco had to ship the props, including images made of papier-mâché from Paete, Laguna, in advance.

"It's like we've come full circle," says De Leon. "Barge and I were part of the World Expo in Yokohama in 1989."

The two, together with several Filipino designers, staged a fashion show dubbed Yokohama Exotic Showcase or Yes! It featured, among others, Filipino models and folk dancers. Lacuna, who was then connected with the Manila city hall tourism office under Mayor Mel Lopez, also took part in the Philippine effort.

Due to the absence of flyers explaining what the event was all about, some Japanese mistook the Filipinos for Thais, Malaysians or Indonesians. Except for Filipino-Japanese broadcaster Ellen Nishiumi of WINS Channel, there were no members of the Japanese media to cover the event.

Sister cities

The event gained more significance since it marked the 40th year when Manila and Yokohama agreed to become sister cities. To date, Manila has 31 such agreements with such cities as Sacramento, Sydney, Acapulco, New Delhi, San Francisco, Nice, Berlin, Lima, Bangkok and Taipei, among others.

It's a primarily the office of the mayor of Manila which enters into such agreements. Although not a few partnerships have remained inactive, some notable exceptions have produced genuine cultural exchanges over the decades. Lacuna cites Manila's dealings with Sacramento and Yokohama as two such examples.

During the time of Manila Mayor Ramon Bagatsing, for instance, a library featuring books on the Philippines opened in Sacramento. This time, Lacuna led the donation of Philippine dolls inspired by scenes from a Santacruzan to Yokohama's doll museum.

At the same time, Ramos dressed up 50 Manileña Barbies in various Filipiniana gowns. The dolls were given as gifts by a dozen Filipino children to their counterparts in Futomatagawa Elementary School.

In return, the Filipinos received Japanese dolls from their newfound friends. They also learned to make Japanese kites and sketches, but not after participating in a cultural exchange of songs and dances.

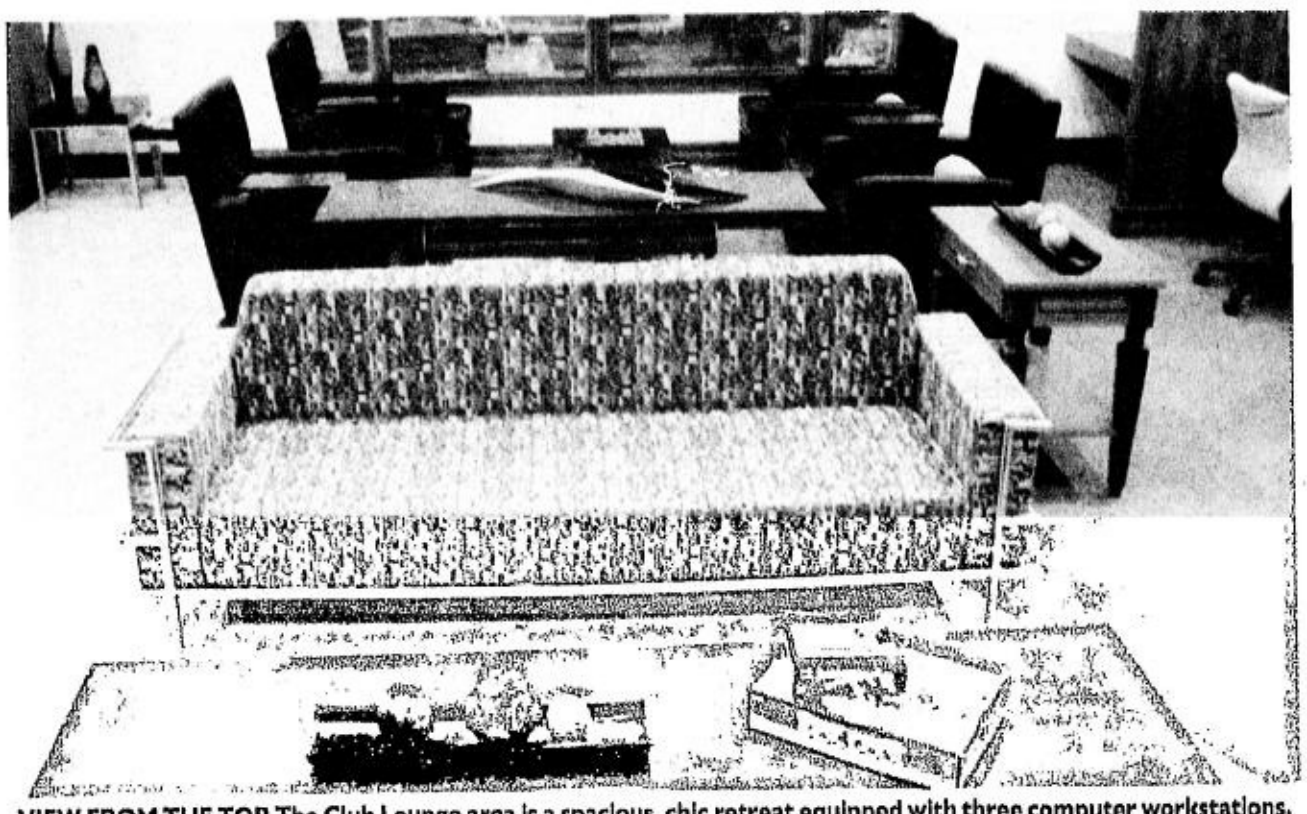
"We're just being true to our objective to promote cultural exchanges between Manila and its sister cities," says Lacuna. "As a matter of fact, we're merely returning the favor to Yokohama, which supports a Manila-based foundation that provides scholarships to 2,000 students."

For this latest extravaganza, Misca reportedly spent P3.5 million and flew in a party of 55 people to Yokohama. The funds, says Lacuna, were generated mostly from donations provided by the Philippine Tourism Authority and several Japanese donors doing business in the Philippines.

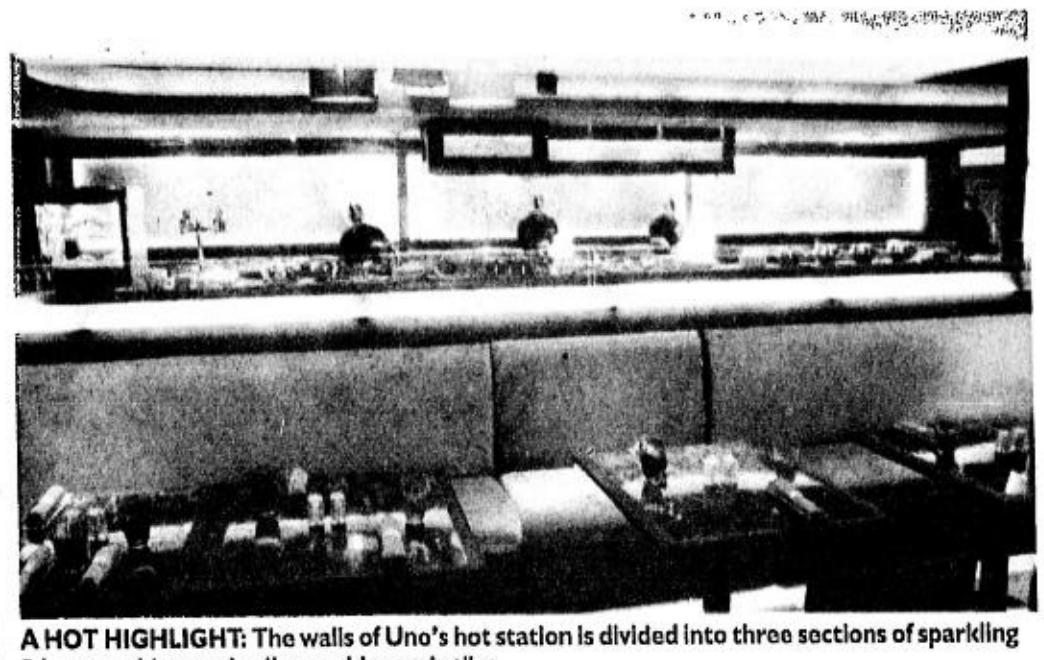
For a country strapped for cash, spending such an amount on a cultural presentation may sound a bit outrageous. But to thousands of Filipinos pining for home while they eke out a living in Japan, such an attempt to warm their hearts, if only briefly, was priceless.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

HALA bira in Japan!



VIEW FROM THE TOP. The Club Lounge area is a spacious, chic retreat equipped with three computer workstations, a flat-screen television and choices of up-to-the-minute lifestyle and business magazines, as well as newspapers and board games



A HOT HIGHLIGHT: The walls of Uno's hot station is divided into three sections of sparkling 24-carat white- and yellow-gold mosaic tiles.

Cebu hotel's new treat for business travelers

THE WATERFRONT CEBU CITY Hotel and Casino has renovated its 18th floor, which is now called the Waterfront Ambassador Club.

The 18th floor has 24 enhanced guest rooms and suites, and an all-new, two-floor Club Lounge exclusive for Ambassador Club guests.

Waterfront put up the Ambassador Club with modern business travelers in mind. Rexlon Gatchalian, president of Waterfront Philippines, Inc., said the club will offer corporate travelers "a refreshing alternative to what's currently out there."

"We intend to deliver great service, design and functionality, all at an affordable room rate, with a high comfort quotient from the moment of the arrival to departure," he said.

General manager Marco Protacio said, "We see the Waterfront Ambassador Club as a hideaway after a long day, a beautiful place that's comfortable and effortless."

The Club Lounge serves complimentary continental breakfast and all-day beverages. Cocktail hours are at 5-7 p.m. daily.

Aside from the facsimile and printing services, guests may use a boardroom good for up to eight people. The room is equipped with a built-in LCD projector, a roll-up screen, PA and recording system, a Local Area Network (LAN) and a polycommunication system.

The second-floor lounge is a spacious, chic space with three computer stations, offering complimentary one-hour WIFI access, flat-screen television entertainment, an up-to-the-minute array of lifestyle and business magazines as well as newspapers and board games.

The Ambassador Club has a butler service, headed by Bryan Lasala. Other privileges include express check-in and check-out, complimentary daily pressing of suit, as well as shoe-shine service, complimentary airport transfers and use of gym.

Lifestyle restos

The Uno restaurant has also been revamped. Eclectic and contemporary in design, Uno radiates with such hues as orange and yellow, balanced by the cool freshness of green and warm mahogany wood tones. The wait staff's bright and retro chic "racer" ensemble also add to the ambience.

Uno has four stations, where diners get to choose food to suit their fancy: the Bread and Dim Sum station, which displays assorted breads, sandwiches, dim sum and cheeses; the Cold station, which features fresh seafood, a sushi and sashimi counter, a salad bar, and a variety of antipasto; the Hot station, which has pasta, carving and grilling stations, and a buffet offering international dishes; and the Dessert station, which features soufflés and crepes, fresh fruits, and cakes and pastries.

The a la carte menu features a selection of Filipino dishes as well as international cuisine.

Also revamped is the Gourmet Walk, the hotel's restaurant row.

The Tin Gow is the city's premiere Chinese restaurant, offering the best Oriental cuisine.

La Gondola offers pasta dishes, brick oven-baked pizzas and steaks.

Mizu, one of the hotel's lifestyle concept restaurants, offers authentic Japanese cuisine, and a selection of cocktails, wines and spirits.

For those with a sweet tooth, there's Madeleine, the patisserie and *boulangerie*.

Treff is the outdoor oyster bar, where the freshest oysters are prepared in a variety of ways.

Waterfront Philippines, Inc., is a wholly Filipino-owned hotel chain in the country. Call 2326888, loc. 8132, 8107, 8108, 8109 and 8110.

For Uno, call 2326888 loc. 8604.

WORK HARD. The elegantly designed boardroom, perfect for power meetings, is equipped with a built-in LCD projector, a roll-up screen, PA and recording system, a local area network (LAN) and a polycommunications system.

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

A	L	I	A	S		S	K	E	W		N	I	B	S
M	I	L	L	E		T	E	S	H		O	S	L	O
B	E	L	L	E	F	O	N	T	E		T	S	A	R
I	F	S	O	M	E	O	N	E	W	H	O	U	S	E
		W	E	E	D	Y		E	N	E		A	U	T
S	P	A	S			G	R	O	W	C	R	O	P	S
P	E	N		M	A	I		E	L	S	F		L	E
L	E	G		P	A	N	A	M	A		E	R	A	S
A	W	E	I	G	H	T	L	I	F	T	I	N	G	P
S	E	R	B		S	O	P		I	D	A		D	O
H	E	S	S	E		W	H	A	T	D	O	Y	O	U
		E	L	S		I	F	E		N	N	W		S
T	H	I	N	K	T	H	E	R	E	S	U	L	T	M
H	U	N		S	E	E	D		N	A	V	E	L	S
A	R	A	B		E	L	O		S	L	I	T		F
I	T	W	O	U	L	D	M	A	K	E	T	H	E	
	S	E	N	S	E		D	I	N		J	A	I	M
		F	O	R	M	E	R	F	A	R	M	E	R	F
U	N	Z	I	P		A	S	O	F		A	C	C	E
M	O	O	R	E		S	A	I	L		N	I	T	S
P	R	E	E	N		K	I	T	E		G	I	S	T

I	Z	O	D	S										
N	A	V	E	S										
A	P	A	R	T										
A	U	T	O	S										
C	L	I	O											
E	D	A												
D	O	N												
S	N	O	W											
O	L	E												
N	E	T												
T	E	S	S											
S	E	V	E	N										
A	L	E	N	E										

Got your copy Now!

Gourdaigfood

Today's Best-selling Titles...

Lutong Pinoy... Timplang Pinoy... Vegetariang Pinoy

Cordillera's Best

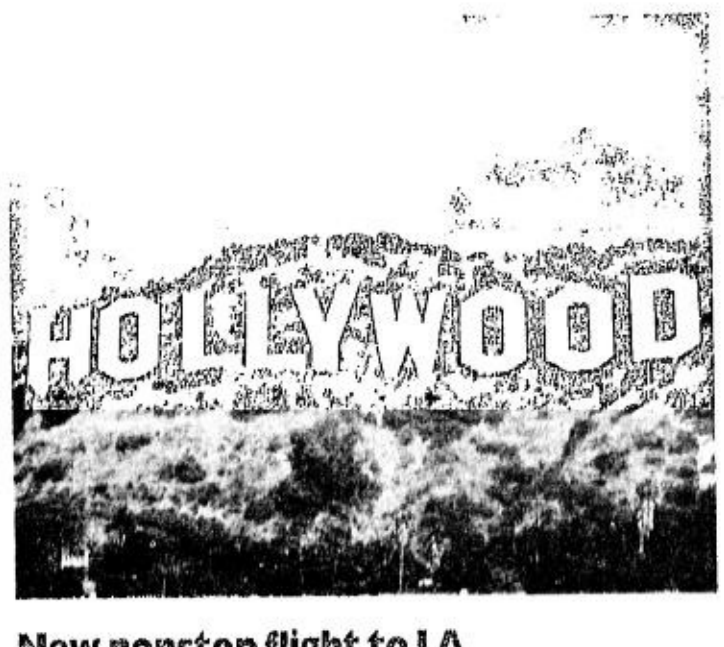
IMPAKABSAT 2005

Aiming Higher, Getting Better

30 November - 04 December 2005
Megatrade Hall 3
5/F, Building B
SM MEGAMALL
EDSA, Mandaluyong City

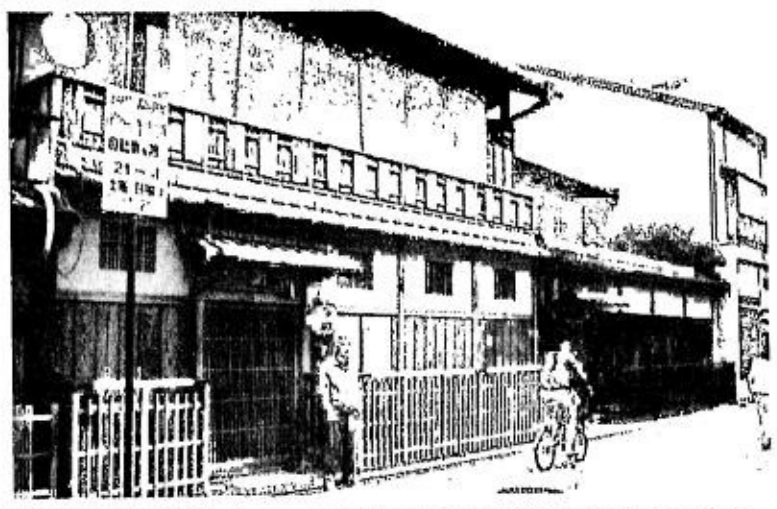
Furniture, Woodcraft, Loomwoven Items
Food & Beverages, Jewelry, Cutflower
Fashion Accessories, Gifts & Holiday Decor

Organized by the DTI-CAR Regional Office
Tel Nos. 074-443 6549 / 074-442 8634 / Fax No. 074 442 7859
E-mail: dti_cordi@yahoo.com / www.business.gov.ph



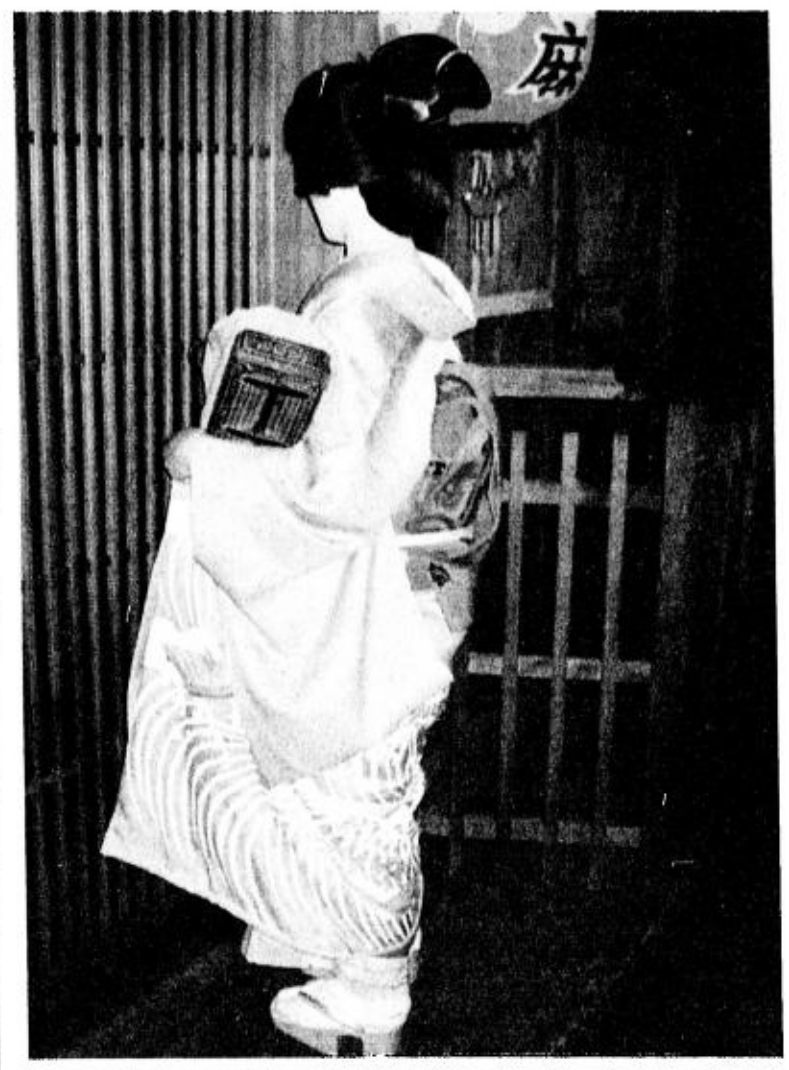
New nonstop flight to LA

Asia's fastest growing airline, Thai Airways International, announced recently its new nonstop flight from Bangkok to Los Angeles every Tuesday, Friday and Sunday, effective Dec. 1. The new direct service is in addition to the airline's Bangkok-to-New York nonstop flight every Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday. The new Express Routes to North America uses Thai's ultra-long range A340-500 jetliners that offer a three-class configuration and the highest standards of in-flight comfort, hospitality and entertainment. The airline also introduced recently its new nonstop flights to Moscow and Islamabad. The new Los Angeles flight connects with the airline's daily Manila-Bangkok flight. More information on this and other Thai flights and the affordable Royal Orchid Holidays tour packages are available through 8124744 (Makati); 5280122 to 25 (Manila); (032)2322405 (Cebu); or www.thaiairways.com.



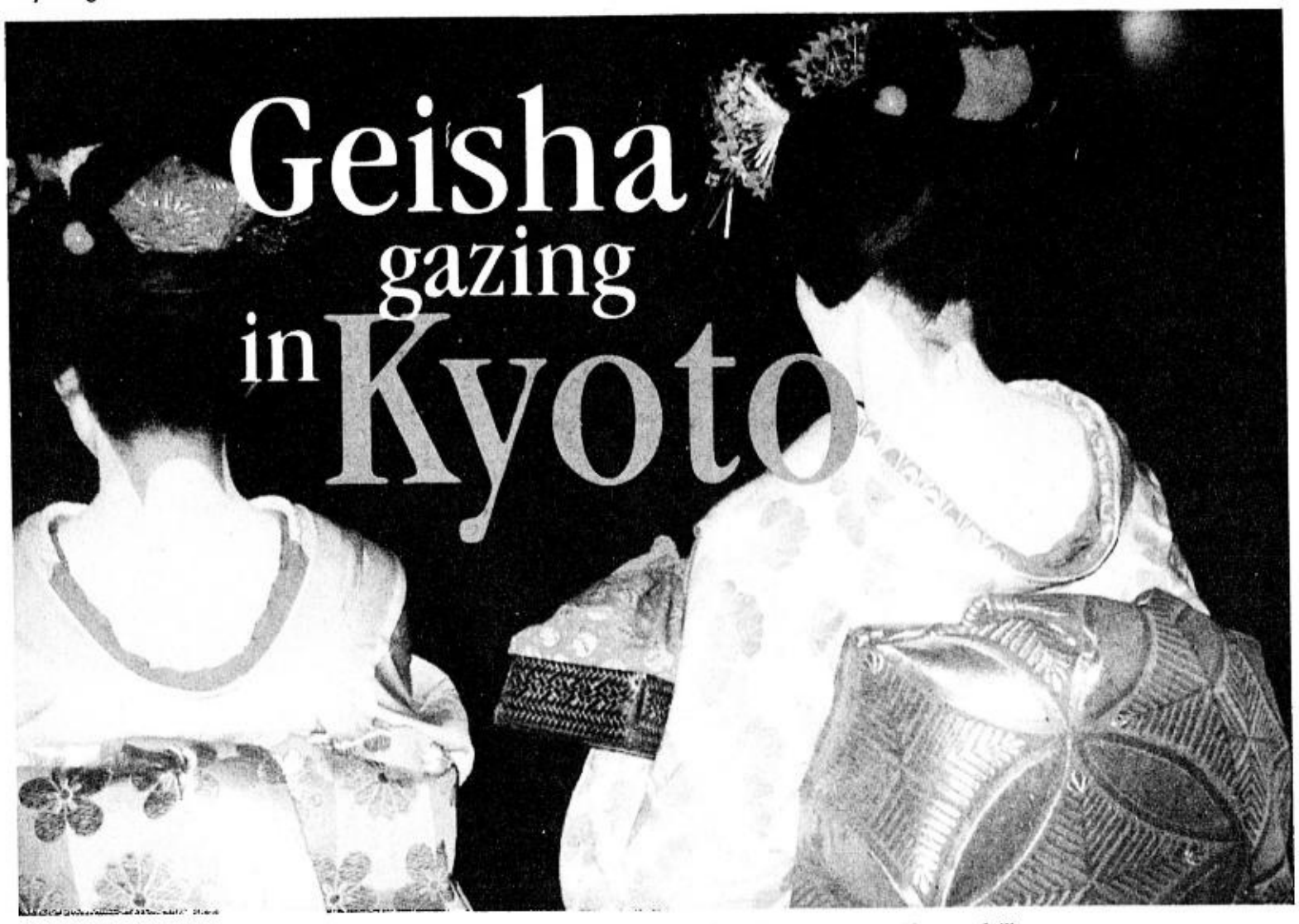
NONDESCRIPT teahouse exclusive for rich customers comes alive only at night.

GION at daytime, when the *ochayas* (teahouses) sleep



ANOTHER *maiko* (distinguished by red undercollar at her back)

Geisha gazing in Kyoto



THE NAPES with the forked-tongue figure, exposing flesh against white powder, elaborate wig and layers of silk

STEPPING in sure cadence

From page H1

a Geisha" (1997), which is now a much-hyped film.

Going to Japan, for me, is always a great aesthetic event. I am fascinated by Japanese logos and signage, *manga* (comics), and the way they package everything from chocolates to vegetables. Almost everybody extols how neat and orderly their streets are, and how young Japanese women are outre fashionable.

Obsession

So, it became almost a personal obsession for me to have a titillating visual experience of the geisha (or *geiko* in Kyoto) or *maiko* (apprentice geisha) flitting from one *ochaya* (teahouse) to another—as the books romantically describe them. Capturing them in photos would be a bonus.

Ochaya is where geishas and *maikos* work. Says Downer: "It is where there is music, dancing, partying, sometimes food and always plenty of alcohol; tea is the last thing you would expect to find there."

I was full of anticipation when we—my wife, two of my sisters, and I—got on the *shinkansen* (bullet train) that would take us west to Kyoto from the super-busy Tokyo station. Traveling at a top speed of 300km/hr, the trip took two hours and 40 minutes, including the quick stops. I had my Nikon F3 and a Canon Ixy ready.

Lonely Planet had advised us against trying to see all of Kyoto in just a few days. Well taken. Our budget was only for two days and all I wanted to visit was Gion, the *karyukai* or special district in Kyoto where most of the exclusive teahouses are.

Of course, Kyoto offers more than *ochaya*. It is a small storied city of 1.4 million people with 1,600 temples and shrines, shops for ceramics, hand-painted textiles, kimonos, antiques, handicrafts, and most of all, fine cakes.

Japanese high-school students from all over the country are required to take field trips to Kyoto to discover their heritage, their Japanese-ness. They say any Japanese will understand who they are as a race only after visiting Kyoto.

Since my geisha hunt would be at nightfall, we decided to spend the daytime seeing some main tourist attractions. A bus ticket costing Y500 (around P250) allows a person, for one day, limitless bus rides at any route to take him to different spots in the city.

My photographer's moment was capturing the candid image of the napes of two 'maikos' or junior geishas. This is akin to seeing Maria Clara's ankles

STEAKHOUSES in Gion saying: "If you have to ask the price, then you can't afford it"

STATUE of Izumo no Okuni (right) erected only last year. She is said to be the precursor of the geishas, famous for her "brilliant but cheerfully erotic" dancing.

The first place the beaten path led us to was Nijo Castle, a Unesco World Heritage site, originally built in 1603 by the Tokugawa Shogunate. Its pride are the exquisite paintings on sliding panels and walls, now being restored with its full gold embellishments.

The famous "nightingale floors" in the palace are constructed in such a way that they give melodious squeaks when you walk on them. They say this was a security measure against intruders. I wonder if they work against stealthy ninjas.

We also went to the Kyoto Imperial Palace, the original residence of Japan's Imperial Family until 1868, when the capital was transferred to Tokyo. There was nothing there but wide expanse, serenity and audacious crows. To tour the interior palace requires a prior appointment through the imperial household office.

We also saw Kinkakuji, or the Golden Pavilion, a three-story Zen temple topped by a Chinese phoenix, its two top tiers wrapped in gold leaf. It was formerly a residence of a shogun.

In Gion

But still the top of my itinerary was geisha-hunting. We were in Gion as the blue sky was turning to black. I was expecting quiet, dim-lit streets, but was instead greeted by riotous, if not busy, brushstrokes of tourist buses, delivery vans, motorcycles, and Toyota Crown taxis squeezing into the small streets criss-crossing the area. Yet, there were interludes of stillness.

Tourists, mostly *gaijin* like me, were walking back and forth the neat row of teahouses, dining places, houses and shops. I suspected that, like me, they were wishing to bump into a geisha or *maiko* going to and coming from work. No such luck.

Our *tropa* thought of having dinner first, and looked at the menus of a couple of steakhouses in Gion, but the prices said, "Bug off!" So we decided to resume our geisha-hunting.

This time we followed our instinct and staked out an unmarked *ochaya* (a lot of them are) that seemed to be very busy. A taxi disgorged a few distinguished-looking men in suits into it.

A harassed boy was carrying food containers in and out of it. And through the wooden slats of the door, we could see figures in kimonos going from one room to another. We decided to play a game of *bantay-pare* (waiting).

It was autumn and the air was nippy. We were getting cold and hungry. Then suddenly from another street emerged a beautiful *maiko*. There was a unison of gasp and excitement among the tourists.

But nobody among us amateur paparazzi was quick enough to draw his camera. She quickly melted into the *ochaya* we were

SHE with scarlet lips painted always smaller than her real lips

staking.

Throughout the night, *maikos* or geishas, striking with their aura, white faces and resplendent kimonos, appeared like shooting stars. Like apparitions teasing. Behind us. On the right of us. Down the lane. Some were painfully camera-shy and some camera-friendly.

Eerily, our cameras at first wouldn't work. I soon concluded that this was just the quirkiness of digital buttons jumbling with human nerves.

I was getting embarrassed with myself for intruding into the world of geishas, as if I was violating something sacred. But then I rationalized I was just a curious tourist and they were celebrities.

My wife Guia and sisters Helen and Estella were egging me on and even assumed the role of lookouts. I was about to call it a day, when two *maikos* walking side by side emerged from another dark corner and were turning to an alley. "*Kuya!*" alerted my younger sister.

I bounded after them. The Taiwanese and Brazilian tourists, also a little bit wiser and bolder as *uziseros*, were on my heels. My experience as a documentarist kicked in, until I found myself shooting alone with the *maikos*, as the others faded from the chase.

The *maikos* were walking in measured, synchronized cadence on winding alleys. I only stopped clicking when I had that yahoo feeling and let go of the two to merge with the darkness.

As any photographer would attest, there is a joy that cannot be bought when you capture a moment. Mine was being able to have a candid image of the two *maikos*' napes. This is akin to seeing Maria Clara's ankles.

We left Kyoto very pleased. Before we did, we sampled the city's renowned product, delicate cakes of fine glutinous rice and black beans.

Social graces in Japan dictate that you bring gifts when you see someone for a visit. *Omiyage* or *pasalubong* from the cake shops, complete with their wrappings and marked bags. For their packaging alone, they are irresistible.

Going back on the *shikansen*, I had along several bags with my confection of pictures. Mission happily accomplished.

HIGH-SCHOOL girls visiting Kyoto. Who among them dreams of being a geisha?

AMATEUR paparazzi from foreign lands

To dream is a journey

By Ruth Sindico

DREAMING IS LIKE TRAVELing, our mind's eye transporting us to places that our hearts most desire.

And maybe this is the reason why our most ardent wishes consist of journeys - whether it's about going to far-off places where we get to experience and learn new things or just cruising or speeding along in the vehicle of our dreams towards our favorite destinations.

Indeed, how many times have we pictured ourselves on a cruise ship dramatically forking through the blue of the Mediterranean? How often have we imagined being comfortably seated in a luxurious vehicle racing along a quiet highway with the sun or moon high on the sky?

Perhaps we can't even count the number of times that we envisioned ourselves enjoying first class accommodations nor how often we saw ourselves with our loved ones arriving in our homes in a car that is the envy of all.

But while dreaming may be the closest we'll ever get to experience the real thing, nothing still comes close to the sensation of having all these dreams in one's grasp.

Go further and imagine actually touching the brilliance of the blue waters, being engulfed in idyllic sunsets day after day, hearing your kids squeal at the dolphins jumping in the white capped waves, and relishing fresh seafood served piping hot from the kitchen.

Stretch your imagination vigorously and clutch at leather-wrapped Sport steering wheels, run your fingers along smooth wooden dashboards, and be content in the knowledge that your loved ones are securely seated beside and behind you.

Had enough dreaming?

Now you get to step off your dream world and actually have your most ardent wishes come true with the help of BPI Express Credit Cards.

First-class accommodations to one of the world's most historically and culturally rich destinations?

With the BPI Express Credit Gold Mastercard, that Mediterranean dream is within your reach.

Wanting the thrill of a lifetime in the best theme parts in the United States? The BPI Express Credit Classic and Blue MasterCard can take you there.

Itching to show up at work in one of the world's most stylish and high-performance cars?

The BPI Edge MasterCard gives you the chance to drive your very own Porsche Boxster.

Want to drive your family around town in a car that's both high in design and features?

The BPI-Petron MasterCard will take care of that with the Audi A4 Avant Station Wagon.

And realizing these dreams is just a swipe away.

All you have to do is make a minimum P1,000 purchase and charge it to your BPI Express Credit Card. This automatically entitles you to one raffle entry.

If you're not a BPI Express Credit Cardholder yet, apply for one now and immediately earn one raffle entry! Plus get the chance to enjoy the following privileges as only BPI Express Credit Card can deliver: superior security against fraud with the Europay MasterCard/VISA-compliant chip, lower finance charges, low foreign currency conversion rates for purchases made abroad, no hidden charges, and payment convenience anytime anywhere via the Express Phone, Express Online, and in over 1,200 ATMs and 700 BPI or BPI Family Bank branches nationwide.

So travel closer towards your dreams and let BPI Express Credit Cards grant you the wishes that your heart most desire.

Go further and imagine actually touching the brilliance of the blue waters, being engulfed in idyllic sunsets day after day, hearing your kids squeal at the dolphins jumping in the white capped waves, and relishing fresh seafood served piping hot from the kitchen

BPI EXPRESS CREDIT

You may win the car that wins both your hearts.
The Audi A4 Avant.

to join

Only from the credit card that can

Make IT Happen

*To apply for a PETRON-BPI MasterCard, visit any BPI or BPI Family Savings Bank branch or Express Banking Center near you or call 89-100 or log on to www.bpiexpressonline.com.

*Annual membership fee for new customers waived for the first year.
*Approved applications during the promo period will also earn raffle entries.

BPI Express Credit's Make It Happen promotion is from November 15, 2005 to May 15, 2006. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0503, Series of 2005

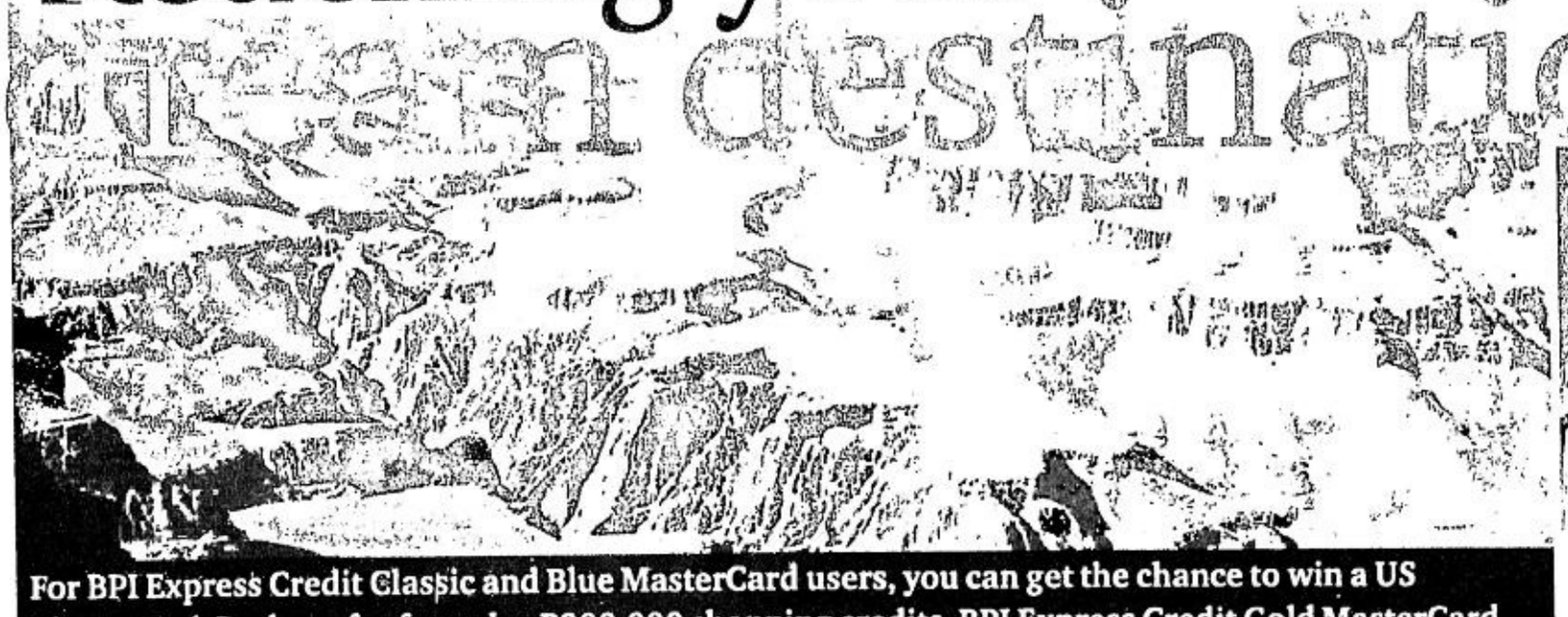
BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS
A tradition of leadership

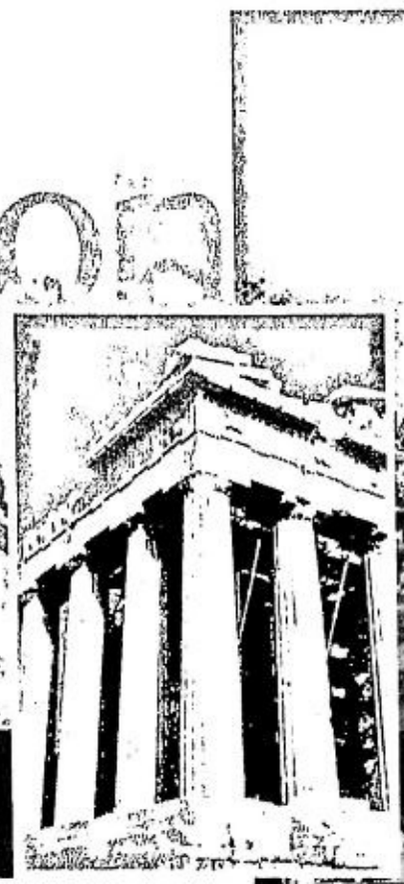
PETRON

PGA Cars, Inc.

Audi

Reaching your dream destination





For BPI Express Credit Classic and Blue MasterCard users, you can get the chance to win a US Theme Park Package for four plus P200,000 shopping credits. BPI Express Credit Gold MasterCard users, on the other hand, can win Mediterranean Cruise for four plus P500,000 shopping credits

TRAVELING IS EVERY PARENT'S DREAM for his or her family. The experience of togetherness in an exotic yet strange land, the picture-perfect moments, and the new tastes and sounds are often memories that will never be forgotten.

Whether you choose to bring your growing family to the United States to visit its exciting theme parks or go on a breathtaking Mediterranean cruise upon a luxury liner, the journey is a rare chance for family bonding.

"I have gone to Disneyland when I was younger and I truly loved it. Now, if I have another chance, I would like to take my two kids there for them to experience the very same magic that put me on a spell," young mom Trina Pamintuan relates.

Parents know that in the eyes of children, seeing Disneyland in Los Angeles-the iconic Sleeping Beauty's Castle at the center of Fantasyland, Tomorrow land, Mickey's Toon Town, Adventure land-and, of course, meeting their favorite Mickey Mouse in person is a dream come true.

The Universal Studios is a tourist attraction worth visiting, particularly for kids who have grown up loving Hollywood flicks such as "E.T.: The Extra Terrestrial" and "Jurassic Park."

Meanwhile, SeaWorld in San Diego, California is an educational zoological adventure of a lifetime. Here, you and your kids can see amazing underwater creatures and fun dolphin performances. Just don't forget to have your picture taken beside a flock of penguins or sea lions.

Traveling to the pages of history is what a Mediterranean cruise can offer. Countries that are found in the region such as Greece, the Principality of Monaco, and Cyprus are lands known for its beauty, mystique, and ancient civilizations.

"I've been looking forward to a week-long cruise with my wife and teenage kids to the Mediterranean. I'll take them to the Coliseum and the Acropolis and wander around the many historic seaside ruins," says senior executive and father Luis Morales.

"But more than anything, just being with my family makes it is truly special. It is an opportunity for me to talk heart-to-heart with my wife and children, and share myself to them in a picturesque setting... It is also a perfect escape to my fast-paced and stressful corporate life," he explains.

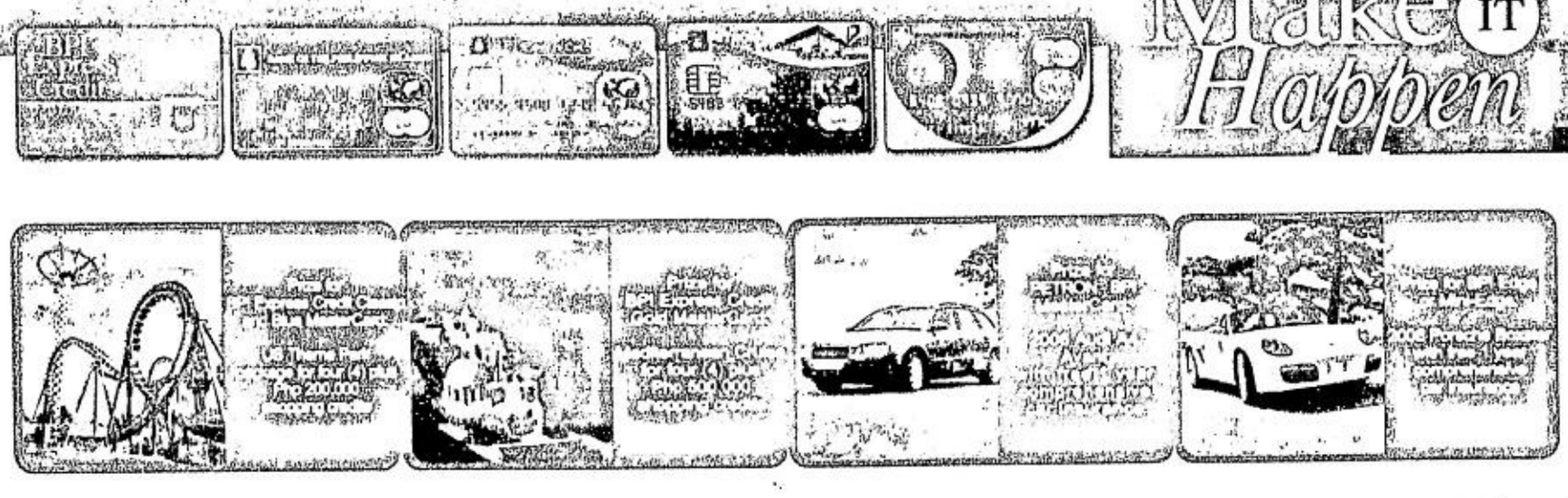
You can make it all happen for free just by using your BPI Express Credit. To join, simply charge a minimum purchase of P1,000 to your BPI Express Credit Card. For BPI Express Credit Classic and Blue MasterCard users, you can get the chance to win a US Theme Park Package for four plus P200,000 shopping credits. BPI Express Credit Gold MasterCard users, on the other hand, can win Mediterranean Cruise for four plus P500,000 shopping credits.

Every P1,000 purchase entitles you to one raffle entry. The more entries, the more chances to win. BPI Express Credit's Make It Happen promo is from November 15, 2005 to May 15, 2006. So keep on using your BPI Express Credit Cards and make it happen.

You may win the trip that puts the world at your feet and your family by your side.

Only from the credit card that's in

Make IT Happen



To join, simply charge a minimum purchase of P1,000 to your BPI Express Credit Card.

Every P1,000 purchase entitles you to one raffle entry. The more entries, the more chances to win.

*To apply for a BPI Express Credit Card, visit any BPI or BPI Family Savings Bank branch or Express Banking Center near you or call 89-100 or log on to www.bpiexpresscredit.com.

*Annual membership fee for new customers waived for the first year.
*Approved applications during the promo period will also earn raffle entries.
*Actual unit may vary from photo.

BPI Express Credit's Make It Happen promotion is from November 15, 2005 to May 15, 2006. Per BSP-SICR Permit No. 6003, Series of 2005

BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS
A tradition of leadership

PETRON

PGA Cars, Inc.

PORSCHE

Audi

Prudential Guarantee

Your dream car is waiting

'The 2006 Porsche Boxster would certainly complement my personal style and taste. It is edgy and fashionable yet it doesn't compromise the most important features that we all look for in a vehicle-safety, power, and reliability'

A BRAND NEW CAR ALWAYS TOPS EVERYONE'S wish list, whether it is for luxury or function. It is a dream that many of us work hard for.

It is the sense of mobility and freedom to move from one space to another that accelerates our adrenaline with the very touch of the steering wheel. Every ride is an experience.

For a young professional or a fashion-savvy individual, a 2006 Porsche Boxster is the ultimate bragging car. It is itself a statement of prestige and sophistication that many could only envy.

"Not everyone is privileged to drive a Porsche- more so a 2006 Porsche Boxster! It is my dream car, and if I'm given the chance to own it, I'd go places, literally and figuratively," says marketing assistant Joshua Cortez.

"The 2006 Porsche Boxster would certainly complement my personal style and taste. It is edgy and fashionable yet it doesn't compromise the most important features that we all look for in a vehicle-safety, power, and reliability," he adds.

For a father, the 2006 Audi A4 Avant evokes a sense of security and comfort for himself and his most treasured possession, his family. It is the vehicle that would take them to a multitude of destinations through time and would witness the most intimate moments of his adult life.

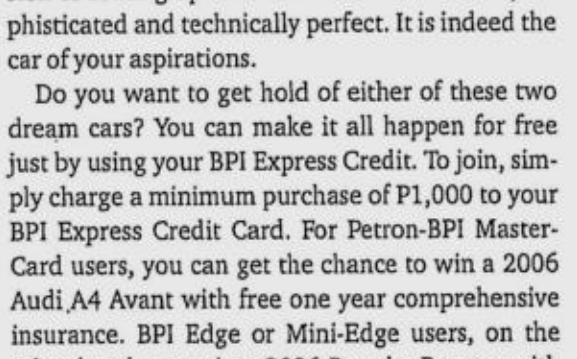
"I own a Sedan right now but since my wife gave birth to our firstborn, it seems that it has gotten too small for our everyday needs. I would like to have a 2006 Audi A4 Avant because it's very spacious and more economical compared to other cars of its category," explains young dad Ramon Guerrero.

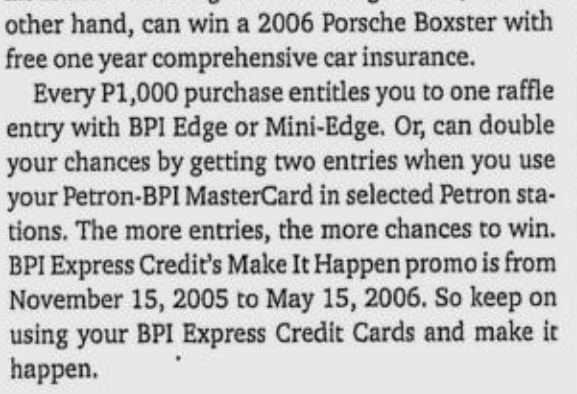
"I can imagine bringing my wife and kids to a weekend vacation in Tagaytay, visit my folks in Vigan, or simply go fishing in Laguna driving it. It will definitely be an important member of our family," Ramon continues.

The new 2006 Audi A4 Avant is an exquisite car which is unmatched in terms of quality and effectiveness. The car lives up to Audi's mission and vision of coming up with cars that are attractive, sophisticated and technically perfect. It is indeed the car of your aspirations.

Do you want to get hold of either of these two dream cars? You can make it all happen for free just by using your BPI Express Credit. To join, simply charge a minimum purchase of P1,000 to your BPI Express Credit Card. For Petron-BPI MasterCard users, you can get the chance to win a 2006 Audi A4 Avant with free one year comprehensive insurance. BPI Edge or Mini-Edge users, on the other hand, can win a 2006 Porsche Boxster with free one year comprehensive car insurance.

Every P1,000 purchase entitles you to one raffle entry with BPI Edge or Mini-Edge. Or, can double your chances by getting two entries when you use your Petron-BPI MasterCard in selected Petron stations. The more entries, the more chances to win. BPI Express Credit's Make It Happen promo is from November 15, 2005 to May 15, 2006. So keep on using your BPI Express Credit Cards and make it happen.





BPI EXPRESS CREDIT

The ride of your life begins with the win of a lifetime.

Only from the credit card that can

Make IT Happen

For a chance to win the Porsche Boxster, simply charge a minimum purchase of P1,000 to your BPI Edge or Mini-Edge Credit Card.

Every P1,000 purchase entitles you to one raffle entry. For more entries, the more chances to win.

BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS
A tradition of leadership

PGA Cars, Inc.
PORSCHE
Prudential Guarantee

*To apply for a BPI Edge, visit any BPI or BPI Family Savings Bank branch or Express Banking Center near you or call 89-100 or log on to www.bpiexpressonline.com.

*Monthly membership fee for new customers waived for the first year.
*Free BPI Mini-Edge with a hip caseholder for every approved BPI Edge application.
*Approved applications during the promo period will also earn raffle entries.
*Actual unit may vary from photo.

BPI Express Credit's Make It Happen promotion is from November 15, 2005 to May 15, 2006.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0503, Series of 2005

To dream is free

In dreaming, it is really the experience of pushing beyond your contextual limits that is important. The thought that whoever you are, maybe-just maybe-you can make it happen

A DREAM IS WHAT KEEPS A MAN'S WILL burning. It is his innermost aspirations-whether they are material or ideal-that make him look forward to waking up the next day.

Luckily, to dream is free. And its only bounds are the dimensions of one's imagination.

When you dream, you have the world revolving in your hands. You can be anybody and possess anything you can ever think of-a royalty in a castle, the most beautiful person alive, a saint nurturing the poor and the sick, an astronaut exploring the vastness of the universe, or even a rockstar admired by millions.

While some dreams do happen, others would simply remain as thoughts lingering in the mind. While many dreams are utterly impossible, many too could be realized within a lifetime, and it is just up to you to grab every chance that passes your way.

Or perhaps in dreaming, it is really the experience of pushing beyond your contextual limits that is important. The thought that whoever you are, maybe-just maybe-you can make it happen.

What's the biggest Christmas wish that you would ask Santa?

Universal Motors Corporation · NISSAN · SHISEIDO Ménage salon · Gateway · BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS A tradition of leadership

* Minimum single purchase receipt of P1,000 on straight charge or P3,000 on Special Installment Plan (SIP).
** Minimum accumulated same day purchase.
For Inquiries, Call BPI Express Phone 89-100 Or Log On To www.bpiexpressonline.com

See flyers for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A3-953, Series of 2005.

Pink Power Girl Power

SEA Games Athletes and Champions come together for Cream Silk

Today's Filipina stands out not just for her exquisite charm and beauty but for her various accomplishments in the many facets of society. From the cut-throat world of business to the challenging field of science, and the highly competitive world of sports, women have triumphed in making their mark and conquering their dreams through sheer determination, innate talent and a burning passion to succeed.

Moreso, in the realm of sports, many Filipina athletes have successfully carved their niche. For these women, there are simply no trade-offs between a girl's passion to succeed and her need to be beautiful. Despite the long hours these SEA Games athletes and champions spend working and training, they do not compromise the need to pamper themselves and to feel every inch the women that they are with their softer, straighter hair. This is Pink Power, Girl Power.

Cream Silk, which has been providing women with expert conditioning for their hair needs, has recently launched a new variant - Cream Silk Satin Soft & Stylishly Straight Conditioner – a product that believes in every girl's ability to exude power and strength and to remain beautiful with softer, straighter hair. The leading conditioner brand in the country put together the Pink Cream Silk Girl Power Athletes – a group of four remarkable young women who best exemplify the Pink Power, Girl Power philosophy, of exuding both a formidable strength and an undeniable beauty. They are Monica Santos from the rough game of football, Veronica Domingo from the tough sport of taekwondo, Michele Bumgarner from the fast-paced world of karting and Janice Hung from the exacting art of wushu.

Why choose between beauty and strength when you can have both? Go for your passion while remaining beautiful with softer, straighter hair with new Cream Silk Satin Soft & Stylishly Straight Conditioner.

A Pink Celebration of True Beauty and Strength

What does it take to make a woman truly beautiful? The answer to this age old question is by being confident with her winning looks and her feminine strength, which was celebrated at Cream Silk's Pink Power, Girl Power affair held recently at The Rockwell Tent. It was indeed a celebration of beauty and strength, as four amazing women athletes — football striker Monica Santos, Taekwondo blackbelter Veronica Domingo, champion karter Michele Bumgarner and wushu expert Janice Hung — who have shown their prowess in their respective sporting fields without compromising their femininity, were regaled at the affair that launched the new Cream Silk Satin Soft & Stylishly Straight Conditioner. These exceptional women embody the Cream Silk Pink philosophy that women need not have trade-offs between their passion to succeed in a man's world and their need to be beautiful with softer, straighter hair.

Four femmes who embody the winning combination of beauty and strength are all set to bring home the gold in their respective sports. From left: Cream Silk Asst. Brand Manager Mikki Ravelo, Janice Hung, Michele Bumgarner, Veronica Domingo, Monica Santos and Cream Silk Brand Manager Dorothy Dee.

Sporting their pink wristbands and bandanas, guests from the field of sports, members of the media and some of society's pretty faces, were obviously excited to be there as they cheered and celebrated the beauty and strength of women, particularly in the field of sports. "I got so excited to see my teammates cheering for me not as I play but as I walked down the stage," Monica quips. To which Michele added, "This is a whole new experience for me. Being part of this campaign is another milestone because I am lauded not only for my performance but also for who I am as a woman."

Guests included former Olympian and SEA Games veteran Akiko Thomson; Chair of Women and Sports Commission of the Philippine Olympic Committee, Cynthia Norton; UAAP Basketball Champions, the FEU Tamaraws; Unilever Philippines Managing Director, Mr. Noel Lorenzana and Cream Silk Brand Manager Dorothy Dee and Assistant Brand Manager Mikki Ravelo. PBA superstar Vince Hizon and fitness and health expert Chinggay Andrada hosted the show.

As the women athletes were introduced, they gamely took center stage not in their usual sports get up but in pink ensembles created by Kate Torralba, sashaying on the ramp like veteran models and flaunting their beautifully straight, satin soft hair. The audience was also given an exclusive preview of the new Cream Silk TV Commercials with the newest endorsers.

Akiko Thomson led the toast with a touching speech that lauded Monica, Veronica, Michele and Janice, as well as other women in the audience for living their passion and always remaining beautiful. She also led the crowd in wishing them well on their upcoming SEA Games competitions. "It's a good thing that a woman's beauty and strength are finally celebrated. Before, we were celebrated only as athletes, especially for our victories, but now, it goes beyond that and we are regarded as women," Akiko states.

Swimming champ and TV Host Akiko Thomson and Cynthia Norton put the Pink Power, Girl Power jackets on Monica Santos and the other lady athletes.

"It is an honor and privilege for us to be chosen to be the embodiment of this campaign. The Pink Power, Girl Power campaign is indeed a celebration of feminine grace and womanly power," Veronica shares.

With new Cream Silk Satin Soft & Stylishly Straight Conditioner and its Pink Power, Girl Power Philosophy, expect more women to strive to achieve greater heights of victory in any field they pursue, while remaining truly beautiful with their softer, straighter hair.

The Philippines SEA Games Women's Football & Taekwondo teams join the Cream Silk Pink Power Athletes onstage as Cream Silk pays tribute to the Filipina athletes during the launch.

Monica Santos

Philippine SEA Games Athlete
Football

Stunning Striker

She's one of the youngest members of the Philippine Women's Football team and is a stunner given her exotic beauty, softer and straighter hair coupled with her passion for her chosen sport. Alongside veteran players, she has had her share of nerve-wracking and physically-demanding trainings. However, this doesn't douse her eagerness as the excitement she feels grows by the day. After all, the much-awaited SEA Games competitions have come.

Holding the striker position on her team, Monica has seen action in the Under 19 AFC Women's Championship 2004 in China. But the lady booter confesses that there's something different about the SEA Games that she simply can't ignore. "We trained long and hard for this. We've had practices twice a day for eight months straight, and we're under closed camp training for a month now. More than that, we're being fielded against one of the strongest teams on our first game but we feel that we have a good fighting chance."

She has indeed come a long way from her days of playing football for her high school. "When I was just starting out, I thought I was not good enough. I was afraid of kicking the ball because I was sort of intimidated by the older team members. But our coach encouraged us to assert ourselves and to show what we can really do."

Prior to the rigorous training schedule, Monica was a common teenager in high school. "I really have to study too, so I schedule that at night when training's over. Actually, there's no time to get tired," Monica reveals.

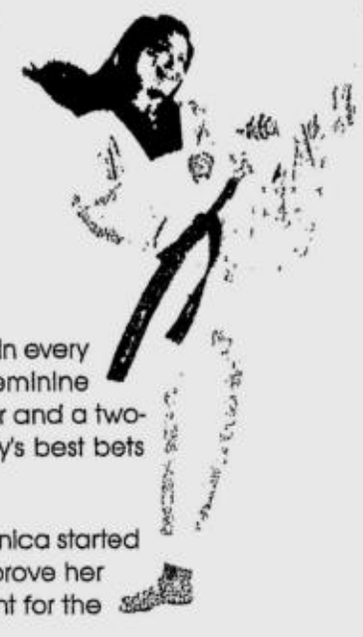
Of her passion to play football, she says, "I'd like to play for as long as I can. I can't say for how long I'll be playing but I've seen my teammates juggle jobs and families and still get to play. I figured, hey, I can do that too! But for now, I aim to score goals during our games and make my country proud."

Even with her tough striker pose on the field, there's no denying that the features of this lady make her truly noticeable, especially her beautiful hair. "My hair gets really dry because of playing under the sun. That's why my goal is to keep it soft and straight with Pink Cream Silk."

With a standout charmer like Monica playing in the football field, the SEA Games will not just be a showcase of passion for sports but an exhibit of beauty as well.

Veronica Domingo

Philippine SEA Games Athlete
Taekwondo



Black Belter Beauty

She's one tough woman who's determined to give her very best in every game. Veronica Domingo displays her beautiful hair and feminine strength with her every powerful move. A certified black belter and a two-time SEA Games gold medalist, Veronica is one of the country's best bets in the upcoming competitions.

Relatively a late bloomer in the rigid world of taekwondo, Veronica started training at the age of 18, hoping that the sport could help improve her footwork in volleyball, only to discover that she has a real talent for the sport she's been wanting to try even as a little girl.

"I was hanging out in the gym one day when I saw the school's taekwondo team training. I noticed that the players weren't exactly tough-looking and I thought to myself, I could do that too. So I jumped at the chance to try the sport when it finally came along," she shared.

These days, Veronica is living her dreams. She's both a formidable member of the Philippine Taekwondo team and a TKD coach in her alma mater, the Far Eastern University, with a full calendar of practices and trainings. Despite her hectic schedule, she remains effortlessly beautiful.

Considered to be one of the prettiest female athletes, Veronica is a perfect example of how women can exude both beauty and strength without compromising one for the other.

For Veronica, there's no such thing as impossible. All it takes is determination and the will to succeed.

"If you want to try something, don't hesitate. Just give it a shot and see if you can do it. We only live once and there's no point in wasting every chance we've got," she said.

Wise words from one very talented woman. Veronica is a definite winner in all aspects – from her superb strikes, to her breathtaking beauty and softer, straighter hair. So watch out and prepare to be enthralled as she steps up to the challenge of bringing home her third SEA Games gold while staying stunningly beautiful.

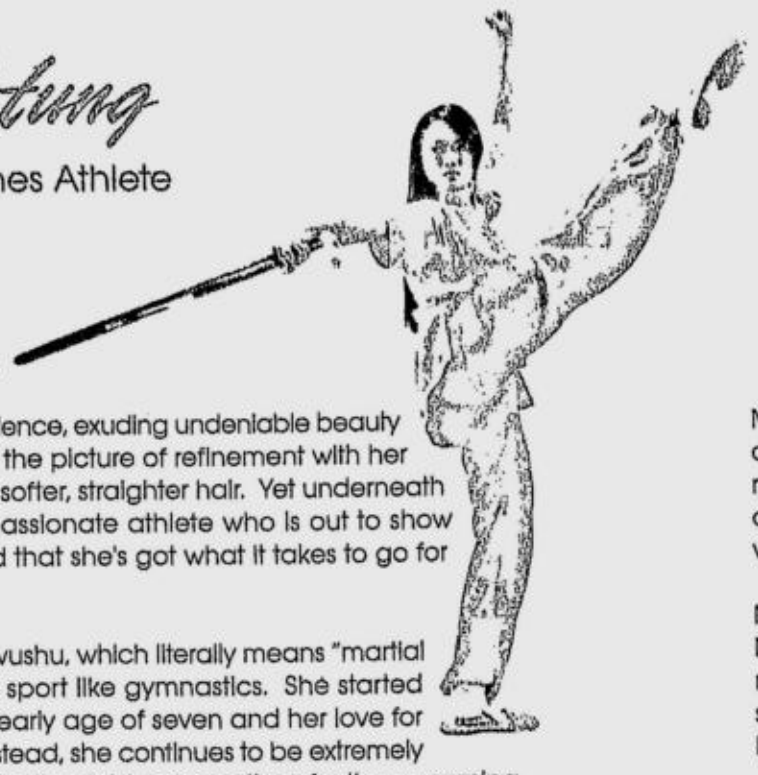
Cream Silk
pink power
girl power

"I take the term 'striking beauty' to a whole new level."
Veronica Domingo / Philippine SEA Games Athlete

NEW Cream Silk CONDITIONERS
For softer, straighter hair

Janice Hung

Philippine SEA Games Athlete
Wushu



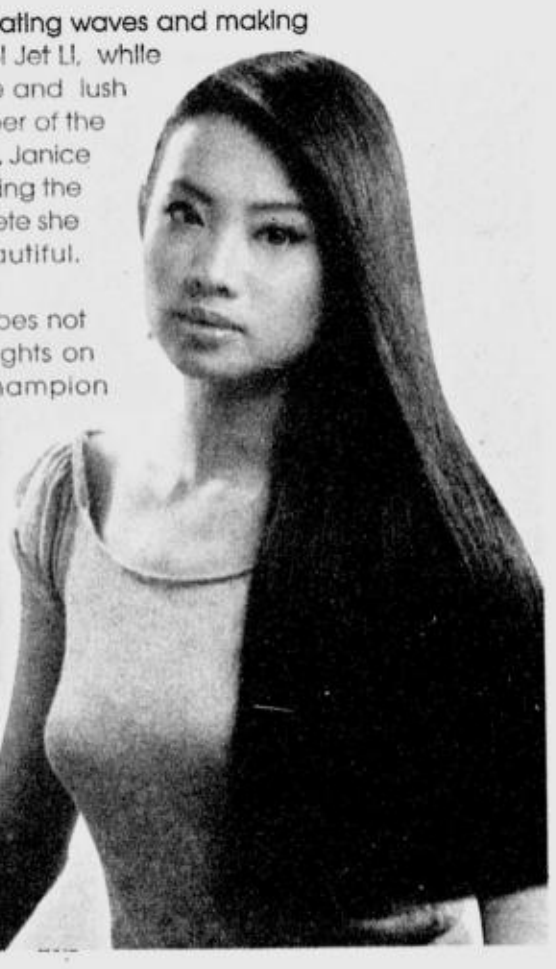
Wushu's Graceful Gem

She walks with an air of elegant confidence, exuding undeniable beauty and exquisite grace. Janice Hung is the picture of refinement with her classic *chinita* features coupled with softer, straighter hair. Yet underneath her charming exterior is a fiercely passionate athlete who is out to show the country and the rest of the world that she's got what it takes to go for the gold.

At 23, Janice is already an expert in wushu, which literally means "martial arts", practiced as a demonstration sport like gymnastics. She started seriously training for the sport at the early age of seven and her love for the game has not waned one bit. Instead, she continues to be extremely dedicated to what she's doing despite the rigid preparations for the upcoming SEA Games.

"I joined the sport not because I wanted fame or glory. I'm doing this because it's something I'm passionate about and because I want to make a difference," she said.

And this is exactly what Janice is doing – creating waves and making her mark in a sport made popular by her idol Jet Li, while being a constant standout for her pretty face and lush locks that flow with her every move. A member of the Philippine Wushu team since her college days, Janice is bent on constantly improving her craft, sharing the sport to more Filipinos and being the best athlete she can be while staying captivatingly beautiful.



And yet her innate passion for excellence does not stop there. Off the mat, Janice sets her sights on realizing her dream of becoming a champion entrepreneur someday.

Indeed, Janice is a lady who embodies the modern Filipina. She's a competent athlete, a budding entrepreneur and an exquisite stunner with her softer, straighter hair. With her drive to succeed and her desire to make a difference, Janice is a real gem to behold.

Michele Bumgarner

Philippine Champion
Karting

Queen of the Tracks

Michele Marie Bumgarner sets the tracks on fire with her astonishing speed. She has made her own mark in recent motorsports history with her share of championship wins. But more than that, she stands out with her beauty and strength combined.

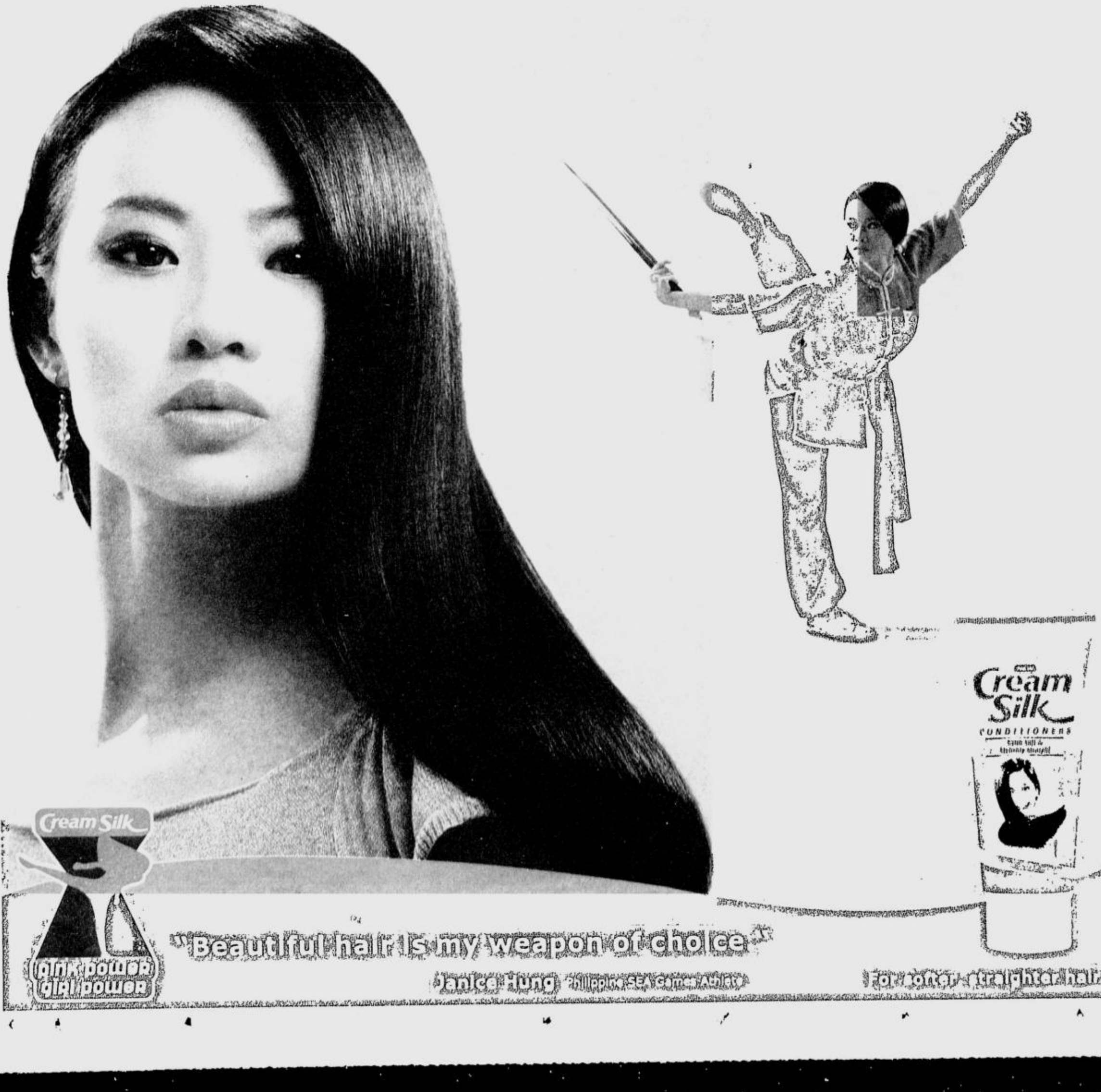
Michele started racing at age nine, debuting in the 1999 National Karting Series. At first, she was not serious at all about racing. "My dad bought my brother a go kart and I got jealous so I asked him to buy one for me, too. From then on, we've just kept on racing," she shares.

Hailed as 2005 Karter of the Year, Michele proves there's no stopping her on the tracks. To date, Michele has won titles such as Overall Champion of the 2004 Asian Karting Open Championship and was even selected for 2005 BMW Scholarship Award by Formula BMW Racing School in Bahrain. Fresh from her competition in Suzuka, Japan, Michele conquered the Asia Pacific Karting Championships there and is soon scheduled to leave the Asian karting scene to burn rubber on the tracks in Italy and the US next year.

Preparing for major competitions is not easy but Michele manages to kick back and relax with her friends whenever she's free.
"I like hanging out with my girlfriends, going to the beach and getting all dolled up every now and then," the prized racer confessed.

While her usual attire consists of overalls and racing gear, Michele is still every inch a lady who transforms into a real beauty when she lifts her helmet to, unveil her enchantingly beautiful hair. Just as she takes racing seriously, Michele is also meticulous when it comes to her looks. Although she claims that she has no beauty regimen, she cannot do without the basics like washing her face and caring for her soft, straight hair.

Though it is said that beauty can launch a thousand ships, beauty coupled with strength is definitely more powerful for this beautiful karting queen.



Exude Girl Power with Softer, Straighter Hair

Women today have evolved into confident, strong-willed, independent individuals who readily take on challenges, even in what have typically been seen as male-dominated fields. This strong persona and go-getter attitude does not diminish her femininity. Women simply love to look beautiful and feminine, especially with softer, straighter hair.

With Cream Silk Protect Plus, Dandruff Control, Thick & Strong, Light & Bouncy, and Black Shine, world hair expert ELIDA has come up with yet another beauty breakthrough – the new Pink Cream Silk Satin Soft & Stylishly Straight Conditioner—as Cream Silk knows the different needs of women to keep themselves beautiful and still do what they want. It has a unique, deep moisturizing formula infused with Vitamin E & Silk Satin Essence that revitalizes dry hair and locks in touchable softness that lasts. Girls can now say goodbye to bad hair days as it gently relaxes frizzy, fluffy and hard-to-control hair, making them look fabulously beautiful all the time. New Cream Silk Satin Soft & Stylishly Straight Conditioner also has a fun, sweet fragrance that gives a refreshing scent and enhances that feminine allure.

It comes in 12ml dual chamber sachets, the first in the conditioner market, and in convenient 100 ml and 200ml tubes. It is available in leading supermarkets, groceries, drug stores, department stores and selected sari-sari stores nationwide.

Get softer, straighter hair only with new Cream Silk Satin Soft & Stylishly Straight Conditioner!

Beauty Mavens Come Together for Cream Silk Girl Power Campaign

Monica shows off her winning form and her softer, straighter hair in front of the camera.

Cream Silk recently introduced its latest variant, the new Cream Silk Satin Soft & Stylishly Straight Conditioner, through the Pink Power, Girl Power campaign. Inspired by the Filipina's ability to shine because of her beauty and strength, the leading conditioner brand in the country handpicked four outstanding young women who now make up the Pink Cream Silk Girl Power Athletes.

For the tri-media campaign, Cream Silk brought in the country's top talents: styling guru Ana Kalaw, make-up experts Lala Flores and Ricci Chan, master lensman Francis Abraham and award-winning director Mike Alcazaren. Together, these talented men and women worked with the four Pink Cream Silk Girl Power Athletes to create a captivating and striking campaign that pays tribute to Filipina excellence.

Calm and cool before the cameras, Monica was obviously enjoying every moment of the unique experience.

Picture perfect

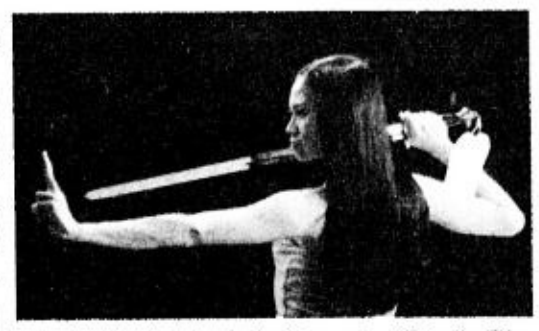
Under the watchful eye of Francis, the expert hand of Lala and with the impeccable taste of Ana, the four women athletes went from beautiful to breathtaking. They posed and glammed up for the camera like professional models, impressing everyone with their natural charms.

Director Mike Alcazaren provides pointers to the ladies during the making of the Pink Cream Silk TV commercial.

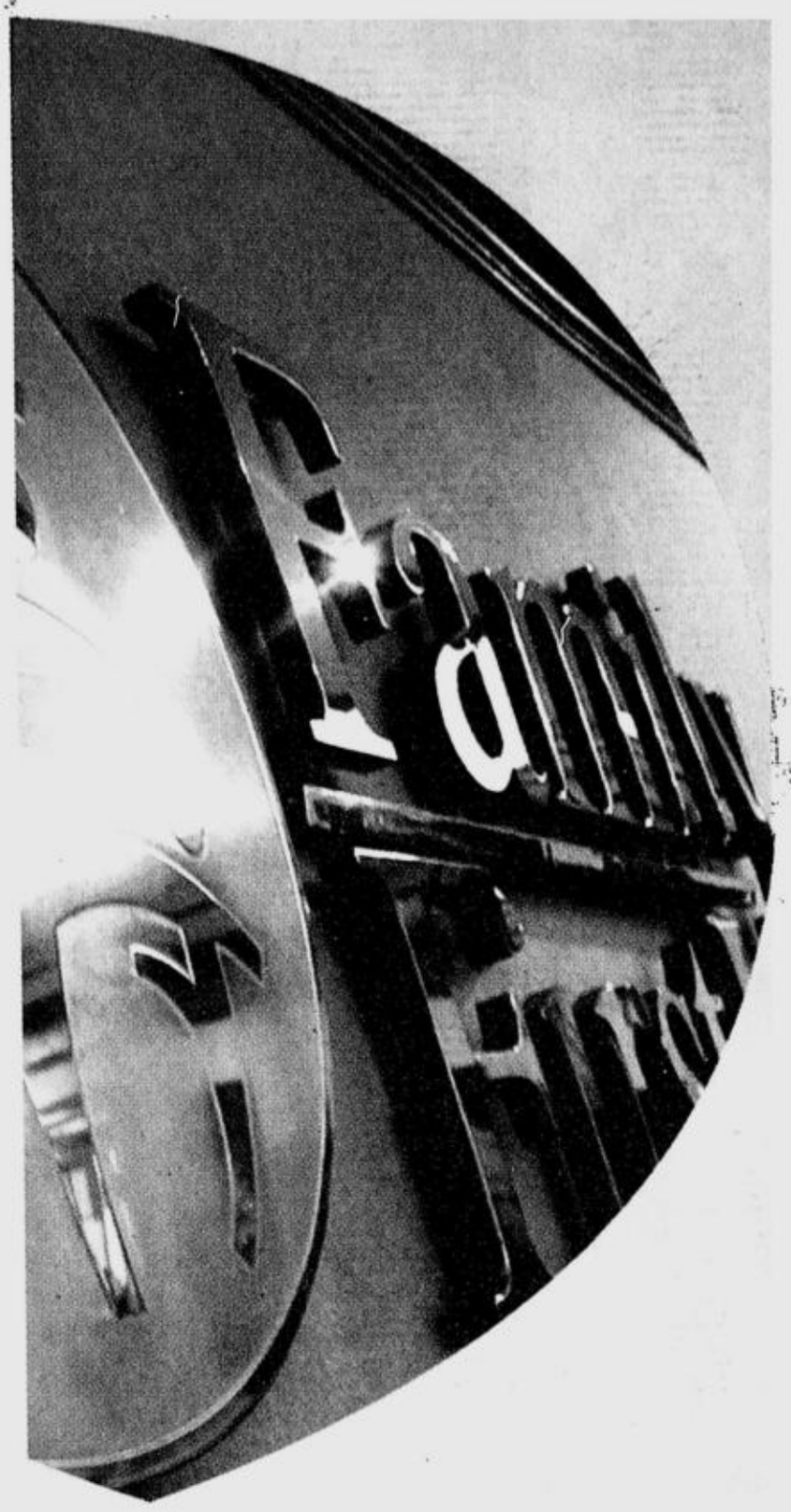
Beauties in action

Even the two-day shoot for the TV commercials turned out to be quick and easy. Working with a powerhouse production team, the girls went on to enjoy every moment and just did what they love best. For Monica, it was all about executing the perfect kick and looking absolutely stunning in front of the camera while Janice swept everyone off their feet with her winning form and winsome appeal. The TV ads, which are now shown in various networks, are aesthetic presentations displaying the athletes' beauty, grace and skill.

Exhibiting her wushu prowess and going all out for the shoot, Janice left the production team very impressed and incredibly amazed.



The wushu princess, Janice Hung, gives life to the TV commercial with her graceful moves and stylishly beautiful hair.



Berkley International Life Insurance • Plans
www.berkley.com.ph

Family First Inc.
www.myfamilyfirst.com

BERKLEY AND FAMILY FIRST IN 2005:

"Great!"

The word aptly describes the journey so far of Berkley International Life and Plans and Family First, Inc. after 8 years in the Philippine financial services industry.

The three firms, all fully-owned by multinational and Fortune 500 company, the US-based W.R. Berkley Corporation, entered the Philippine market at what many considered as a most inauspicious time during the big Asian financial crisis of 1997.

Proving that huge opportunities can indeed rise even from the most daunting of debacles, the Berkley group showed faith in the Philippine economy and the Filipinos and went on what could only be described as a most bullish growth and expansion mode, employing close to 600 people at any given time.

Eight years and six branches later, the Berkley companies are prospering extremely well, rewarded in their efforts and their faith with the trust of more than 150,000 planholders, a record that could only have been attained through a strategy that clearly blazed new trails and revolutionized the marketing scene.

Known now for bringing people *en masse* to the product instead of the other way around, Berkley International Plans, in particular, through its sole distributor — Family First, Inc.. — rocketed from being at the tail-end when it entered the industry to being a consistent Top 5 placer in new business, i.e. the sale of educational plans.

Despite the controversies that naturally hound all trailblazers, Berkley and Family First have remained steadfast in their commitment to serve as many Filipino families as they could through accessible and easy-to-understand information about the need to invest for the future.

Sale or no sale, the companies have, without doubt, enormously raised the awareness of countless Filipinos and started them on the initial step of securing themselves and their loved ones.

Through innovation and integrity in service, Berkley and Family First will continue to work at securing the future of Filipino families, providing them a better quality of life with a view towards building a stronger nation.

PHILIPPINE FEDERATION OF PRE-NEED PLAN COMPANIES, INC.

Berkley International Plans and Family First have changed the industry with their marketing innovations. Their dynamic rise and consistent success are laudable achievements that should inspire other players and prove to all that the pre-need industry remains strong and stable. Congratulations!

Atty. Juan Miguel M. Vazquez
President

ING

"Berkley International and Family First are innovators in the true sense of the word. Their courage in blazing new trails, particularly in marketing, is enviable. Their prudent financial arrangement, on the other hand, is to be lauded especially in these times. It is what secures the faith of thousands of their customers."

Manuel Salak III
Country Manager

Deutsche Bank

"Deutsche Bank offers its warmest congratulations to Berkley and Family First on the achievement of their 8th anniversary."

Enrico S. Cruz (sgd.)
Chief Country Officer
Deutsche Bank Manila Branch

METROBANK
TRUST BANKING GROUP

"We congratulate Berkley International Plans, Inc. on its 8th anniversary in the industry. We hope for your continuous success and growth through good governance."

Josefina E. Sulit
EVP and Trust Officer

Equitable PCI BANK

"Berkley International Life and Plans, together with Family First, are two of the most renowned names in their industries, holding leading positions while continuing their pioneering innovations in their respective fields. Equitable PCI Bank is proud to partner with them in an effort to secure the future of numerous Filipinos."

Marvin V. Fuasto
SVP and Trust Officer

"The Securities and Exchange Commission has not approved this advertisement or determined if this is accurate or complete. Any representation to the contrary constitutes a violation of the securities regulation code and is criminally punishable. The public is encouraged to report immediately to the Securities and Exchange Commission any misrepresentation or false or inaccurate statement."

BERKLEY INTERNATIONAL LIFE AND PLANS AND FAMILY FIRST ARE MARKING THEIR 8th ANNIVERSARY IN THE PHILIPPINES AND WE CITE 8 REASONS WHY INDEED...

IT'S GR8 TO BE 8!

1. SERVICE TO THE FILIPINO FAMILY.

The essence of serving the Filipino family is what fuels our business. It is what inspires and invigorates us to come up with affordable financial products and services to secure their future.

Fulfillment comes from the knowledge that we are here for the long haul and that we will fulfill our promises to our customers. Every move that we have taken is a move toward that direction.

Furthermore, it makes us proud that in the 8 years we have been in the business, we have created tremendous and unparalleled awareness about the need to save for the future. As of 31 October 2005, we have presented to a total of 627,888 individual customers who, whether they bought a plan from us or not, were made to realize the importance of securing the future of their families. This we consider as our primary contribution and legacy to the industry.

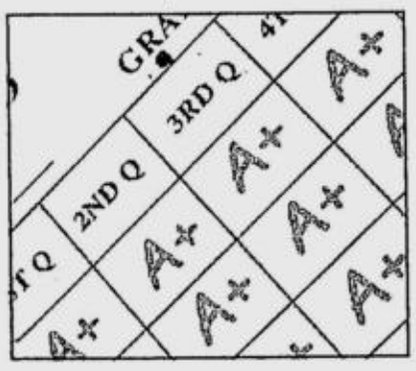
2. STRONG FINANCIAL HERITAGE.

Not many firms today can boast of financial strength anchored on a mother company that is among the top 3 in its industry in the US, not to mention, among the Fortune 500.

Berkley International Philippines, Inc., owner of Berkley Life, Plans and Family First, is a fully-owned subsidiary of W.R. Berkley Corporation whose assets, by end of 2004, totaled US$11.451 Billion.

Berkley Philippines, as of last audited financial statement by end of 2004, has total assets amounting to PhP3.090 Billion. Prudence in financial management, coupled with investment only in high-yielding and highly secure government securities, has given the company firm and stable footing amidst economic challenges and industry upheavals.

3. CONSECUTIVE A+ CORPORATE CREDIT RATING.



Berkley International Plans is the only pre-need company that has obtained a corporate credit rating from the Philippine Rating Services Corporation (PhilRatings), an independent rating agency duly accredited by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and the Securities and Exchange Commission.

From 2001 to the present, Berkley International Plans has consistently obtained a rating of PRS A plus (corp.) which is defined as having: "...AN ABOVE- AVERAGE CAPACITY TO MEET ITS FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS..." as compared to other Philippine corporations. (For the full rating, pls. visit www.philratings.com).

The significance of our willingness to open our financial books for examination and scrutiny by PhilRatings should not be lost - It shows extreme confidence that our finances are in order.

More importantly, it illustrates the lengths we would go to assure our customers and our planholders that they can sleep tightly at night, knowing that their hard-earned investment is well taken care of.

4. COMMITTED AND HARDWORKING EMPLOYEES.

Certainly among the youngest in the industry with an average age of only 26, our people's dynamism and enthusiasm have rubbed off on customers and are primarily responsible for making thousands of people see the value of investing in the future.

For a country whose "savings" rate is purportedly among the lowest in Asia and the world, our employees have certainly done a lot to raise the level of awareness in this regard. They are further the backbone upon which the success of Family First is anchored. They have fun in their work and are proud of their jobs and what these jobs have brought their respective families. Our employees party hard and work even harder. They make the culture of Family First truly one-of-a-kind.

Berkley was established in the Philippines in 1997 when most companies were reeling from the effects of the Asian financial crisis.

Despite the economic slowdown, Berkley confidently pushed head-on with its plans, opening one branch after the other in an expansion thrust that left observers in awe.

The bullishness, of course, stemmed from the financial might of the mother company in the US. Its experience and leadership in its own industry have, as expected, served the Philippine operations well and allowed it to flex its muscles more aggressively than what the times would normally warrant.

HIGHLY LIQUID

From inception, Berkley International Philippines, Inc. has been guided by the policy of financial prudence leaning on the conservative.

Learning from the lessons of the Asian crisis and, more important, as mandated by its mother company, W.R. Berkley Corporation, the companies here have invested **ONLY** in Government Securities and U.S. Treasury Bonds.

Government Securities are unconditional obligations of the sovereign state. It is backed up by the full taxing power of the nation. Therefore, government securities are practically free from default.

In layman's terms, it would take the scenario of all businesses all over the country literally closing down first and the Government consequently going bankrupt before investments in government securities could become worthless. Therefore, government securities are one of the safest types of investment a company could go into which is why Berkley International has invested more than 95% of its Trust Fund in government securities.

Asked why Berkley concentrated on government securities, our Chief Financial Officer explains: "The returns on commercial papers is not substantially greater than government-backed securities yet the underlying risks are substantially larger vis-à-vis the interest rate differential." He continues, "The capital market or equities have a higher upside in terms of returns which will redound to the benefit of the shareholders. However, the downside risk will affect our ability to meet our obligations, which we consider our *raison d'etre*. We certainly would not sacrifice our

"reason for b
Estate, at the
low yield and

As to U.S. Tr
dollar almost
investment in
one's investm
"Daig mo pa

Congruently,
real estate. H
problems norr
industry.

Aware of the h
given many
abroad, Berkl
its Trust Fund
and Exchange
Fund to be in

Instead, Berk
readily marke
in the more v
to guarantee
plan contracts

Protection of
all, the strict
company. We
what we pron
deliver it to th

This paramou
and whenever

It Feels GR8 To Win!

A lot of people still fin
houses and lots costi
obligation to buy.

But the record bears us o
been in the industry did not b

How could we do it? Th
promotions and instead cha
reward people who simply a

Whether they buy or not,
importance of saving for thei
customers who enter our doo

Meet our latest winners.
already in our fold.

ADEL A. RAM
Winner: P2.6M House and Lot at Maia

"It was a typical day for me noong sumali ako sa raffle," bungad na pahayag ni A
City nang malaman niyang nanalo siya ng brand new house and lot sa sinalihan niya
First na Bagong Bahay Bonanza. "The usual...magbabayad lang ako ng plan ko, tapos
doon sa raffle."

Hindi inakala ni Adel na makalipas ang ilang buwan, mabubunot ang pangalan niya n
ng kumpanya na si Mr. Alan Michael Rafe.

Nang maimibitahan si Adel sa awarding ng kanyang bahay, isinama niya ang kan
Makikita sa mga mukha nila ang excitement at kasiyahan. Hindi nga naman araw-ara
ka ng bahay at lupa.

Matapos ang awarding ceremonies, pinuntahan na ng mag-anak na Ramirez ang ka
Tuwang-tuwang inikot nila ang mga kuwarto na maayos na maayos na at paglalagya
gamit. Ayon kay Adel, katuparan ito ng isang pangarap.

*The Securities and Exchange Commission has not approved this advertisement or determined if this is accurate or complete. Any representation to the

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

entiates
und?

T FUND THAT SECURES
RS IS IN ITSELF SECURE

eing" for additional profit. He concludes, "Real present state of the economy, suffers from both ack of liquidity."

easury Bonds, to point out the value of the U.S. seems redundant, if not unnecessary. Even a small such would yield very high returns, what more if nt is quite substantial. As we Filipinos love to say, ng:nakasandal sa pader."

Berkley does not invest in fixed assets, notably, erkley, therefore, is not burdened with liquidity ally associated with sudden downtrends in the said

eadaches that heavy investments in real estate have ompanies, even very huge ones, both here and y has deliberately shied away from putting any of money in high-risk portfolios even if the Securities Commission (SEC) allows up to 25% of the Trust ested in real estate.

ey has chosen to invest in liquid assets that are able and which generate fixed income rather than latile real estate and equities. This is to ensure and he delivery of the benefits provided for under the

our planholders' interests AT ALL TIMES is, after mandate given to us by our American mother put the highest premium on our ability to deliver ise to our planholders at the time we promised to em.

t commitment to deliver our promise — wherever it is needed by our planholders — underlies all our financial decisions. It is something we hold as non-negotiable and would not compromise no matter how tempting or attractive the options may be.

We realize that Filipinos dream of a good education and a good future for their families. We realize that an investment towards the fulfillment of these dreams is paid for by the sweat, sacrifice and tears of many.

Berkley is a partner in realizing this dream by ensuring that when you need your hard-earned money, our Trust Fund can immediately give it back to you and more. No delays, no excuses. And definitely, no turning back on our obligation!

RESERVE REQUIREMENTS A PRIORITY

The company religiously pays the reserve requirements of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

Again, as mandated by the American mother company, top priority is given to the welfare of the planholders. Before any investment could be made, the reserve requirement is first fully met.

With this, it is not a surprise that Berkley was one of the first companies to have complied with the required increase in capitalization from 50 to 100 MILLION PESOS.

TRUSTEE BANKS YOU CAN TRUST

Our Trust Fund, standing at P2.8 BILLION as of 31 October 2005, is secured by some of the most trusted names in banking. They are Deutsche Bank, ING Bank, Equitable PCI Bank and Metrobank.

With Trustee Banks of such caliber and stature in the industry, panholders are all the more assured that their investment is most secure.

A-RATED

Nothing differentiates our Trust Fund better than the four (4) consecutive A plus (A+) ratings garnered by Berkley International Plans from the Philippine Rating Services Corporation (PhilRatings) for its "ABOVE-AVERAGE CAPACITY TO MEET ITS FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS"... as compared to other Philippine corporations.

That should say it all.

5. THE INNOVATIVE AND UNIQUE MARKETING STRATEGY OF FAMILY FIRST.

Often touted as radical, if not aggressive, our marketing strategy of bringing people to the product rather than the other way around has revolutionized the marketing scene. Family First, which implements this strategy, has blazed new trails and, to this day, is being copied by many.

More than being the pioneer in this regard, however, we are most proud that this marketing strategy has, as mentioned, single-handedly raised the awareness of thousands of Filipinos on the need to secure their future.

Innovation is nothing if it does not translate to meaningful change in the lives of those we want to affect. The sales presentations that we have made, whether they clinched a deal for us or not, certainly found their meaning in another college education, or another retirement or another twist of fortune planned for. Be it through the financial products we have especially conceptualized with Filipino families in mind or some other investment offered by competition, we are proud to have helped individuals from all walks of life concretize that all-important decision to save for the future.

6. TREMENDOUS GROWTH AND EXPANSION.

From # 87 industry ranking in 1987 when Berkley's Philippine operations got established, Berkley Plans zoomed up to No. 2 on its second year in terms of new sales and has never looked back hence. From a consistent Top 5 placer, the company has emerged No. 1 in July of this year.

We now have six (6) sales offices including the corporate headquarters in Makati City. They are located in SM Southmall in Las Piñas City, SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City, SM North EDSA and SM Fairview in Quezon City and SM City in Pampanga.

We will definitely continue expanding to better achieve our goal of serving more and more Filipino families.

7. OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S ADOPT-A-SCHOOL PROGRAM.

Believing that education is the portal to progress of the family and the nation and that no education in this age would be complete without, at least, an introduction to the information highway, we partnered with the Department of Education's Adopt-a-School Program and launched Enlightenment and Direction Using Computers and Tutorials for an Innovative Nation or E.D.U.C.A.T.I.O.N.

To this date, we have given away a total of seventy-six (76) computer units to hugely-populated high schools in dire need of computers. They include, among others, Commonwealth National High School, Camp Aguinaldo, Payatas, Las Piñas, Pampanga Training Center and the province's public schools.

In addition, we have provided free computer tutorials to students and teachers in the above beneficiary schools who have signified their interest.

We look at this as our humble way of helping the public sector advance the education of our youth for in their hands lies the future of our nation.

8. BELOVED PLANHOLDERS.

In eight years, we have had more than **ONE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND (150,000)** and counting. Their continuing trust is humbling as it is inspiring.

We resolve to continue doing our best because of the planholders in our fold. We resolve to continue coming up with products and services to meet their changing needs. We resolve to be there for our planholders when the time comes, in the so-called moment of truth when our promise is supposed to be delivered, because we want them to know that their trust was most well-placed.

On this our 8th Anniversary, we say THANK YOU to all of them.

There is a host of other reasons that could make us feel great at this time but we reserve mentioning them in the succeeding years when we plan to celebrate once again in spirit the additional years and opportunities that will come our way to serve the Filipino family and, in the process, help change

it hard to believe that we can afford to give away brand new cars and ng millions of pesos, plus thousands of door prizes, at absolutely no

t... more than 80% of our major winners in the 8 years that we have y a single plan from us! Not even after they have won.
company does not engage in heavy advertising and above-the-line nels the enormous resources usually budgeted for such to directly cept the invitation to sit down and listen to our sales presentation.
we feel we have done our part in raising people's awareness about the future. After all, that in itself is the greatest assistance we can provide s.
One is not a planholder and the other one, to our happy surprise, is

JESUS LAPUZ, JR., Non-planholder
Winner: Brand new Honda Jazz, Tic-Tac-Toe Panalo Promo

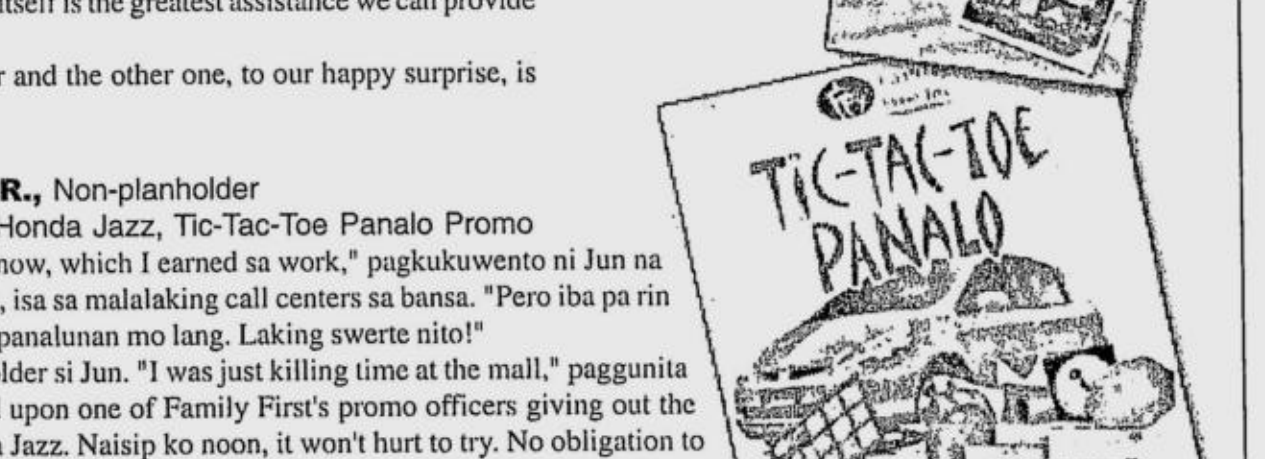
"I have a car right now, which I earned sa work," pagkukuwento ni Jun na nagta-trabaho sa Sykes, isa sa malalaking call centers sa bansa. "Pero iba pa rin ang pakiramdam ng napanalunan mo lang. Laking swerte nito!"

Hindi isang planholder si Jun. "I was just killing time at the mall," paggunita niya. "When I chanced upon one of Family First's promo officers giving out the flyers, I saw the Honda Jazz. Naisip ko noon, it won't hurt to try. No obligation to buy naman e."

So, nag-fill out si Jun ng raffle stub at nag-attend ng presentation na required para makasali sa Tic-Tac-Toe Panalo. Matapos ang presentation, bumalik na sa trabaho si Jun. Hindi man siya bumili ng plan, marami naman daw siyang natutunan. At dahil sa masugid sa trabaho, nakalimutan na niya ang sinalihang pa-raffle.

Hanggang isang araw nilapitan daw siya ng kanyang ina. "May sulat siyang dala-dala. Nakabukas na nga e. Nakalagay sa sulat na nanalo daw ako ng Honda Jazz." Dali-dali namang na-schedule ang awarding ng sasakyan at kasama niya ang kanyang ama na tumanggap ng susi.

Nang gabi ding iyon, naiuwi na ni Jun ang pulang Honda Jazz. Hindi man siya bumili ng plano, naibigay pa rin sa kanya ang napanalunan niya... at ito'y dahil naging bukas ang isipan niya sa Family First.



IREZ, Planholder
Alta, Antipolo City

el Ramirez ng Pasay
ng promo ng Family
naisipan kong sumali

mismong presidente

ang buong pamilya.
v na makakatanggap

ilang bagong bahay.
n na lamang ng mga

Tulad ni Jun at Adel, maaari din ninyong makamit ang inaasam ninyong dream house o dream car. Madali lang naman ang sumali. Dalawa lang ang kinakailangan: Pagtitiwala at paniniwala.

**To qualify, one must present a current and valid checkbook or credit card as proper identification and sit through the 30-45 minute presentation at any of the Berkley/Family First Sales Offices*

stitutes a violation of the securities regulation code and is criminally punishable. The public is encouraged to report immediately to the Securities and Exchange Commission any misrepresentation or false or inaccurate statement."

BEST COPY AVAILABLE!

BERKLEY INTERNATIONAL
LIFE INSURANCE • PLANS
www.berkley.com.ph

Family First Inc.
www.myfamilyfirst.com

BERKLEY AND FAMILY FIRST:

SERVING THE FILIPINO FAMILY

The planholders.

They are the reason for our being. They are the reason why, despite the many challenges, we continuously strive to outdo ourselves.

We work at constantly improving our products and services to give our planholders the best that they deserve.

Their continuing confidence inspires. Their unwavering trust stirs...

"I have never doubted Berkley/Family First. As a banker, I am, expectedly, very meticulous when it comes to the financial standing of a company. I wouldn't have entrusted Berkley/Family First with the future of my family if I did not first ascertain for myself that the two companies are indeed worthy of my trust. I have been a planholder since January 1998 and their significant achievements in the past years have only reinforced that trust. I know they will be here for me when the moment of truth comes. Congratulations to both Berkley and Family First!"

ELMER A. GUZMAN
Vice President, Union Bank
Planholder since 1998

"Family First makes saving for my family a whole lot easier. The Automatic Debit Arrangement with banks increases the odds that the planowner will finish his payment obligations. Syempre pag natapos mo, ang benefit ay tiyak mong makukuha."

SONIA BRAGANZA, Housewife
Planholder since 1999

"Being away from home makes me worry about those I've left in the Philippines. However, it gives me great comfort to know that my future, as well as my family's, is secured with the plan I got from Berkley and Family First. I know that when the time comes, we will continue to live comfortably wherever we are. Congratulations to Berkley and Family First on their 8th year of giving great service!"

LOLITA B. SALCEDO (sgd.)
Clinical Nurse Specialist, Melbourne, Australia
Planholder since 1999

"I've been endorsing Berkley and Family First ever since I discovered how good their service is. They met my expectations and complied with everything stipulated in my daughter's contract. I'm glad I had both companies at the time I needed them."

DR. ADELAIDA CAÑON
Mother of deceased Berkley Planowner Carmen Cañon

"Madaling naka-claim ng benefits after the family filed it. The documents were in order. And we did not wait for too long while they processed it. Okay ang mga nakausap namin sa Family First."

Yolanda
Aunt of deceased Berkley Planholder Jeffrex Santos

"Hindi ko akalain na totoo pala. Malaking tulong sa akin ang Family First. Very accommodating ang mga tao. Ibinigay nila ang kanilang all-out support. I did not expect na ganito kaganda ang makukuha kong service. Malaking pagkakataon ang ibinigay sa akin ng Family First. Laluna't nasa college na ang anak ko. Financially, malaking tulong talaga ang Family First."

DIVINA CADORNA
SSS Team Head, Wife of deceased Berkley planholder Donato Cadorna

And,
young as we are,
we have proven our commitment to our word.

It warms our hearts to have some beneficiaries of our planholders come out to share their experience with the company.

"Okay ang Family First. Mabilis ang processing nila ng papers. Two weeks lang, nakuha ko na. At ginamit kong puhunan ang pera. The people are very accommodating, mababait and pleasant. It was not at all difficult to talk to them."

ARLENE (last name witheld upon request)
Businesswoman, Wife of deceased Berkley planholder

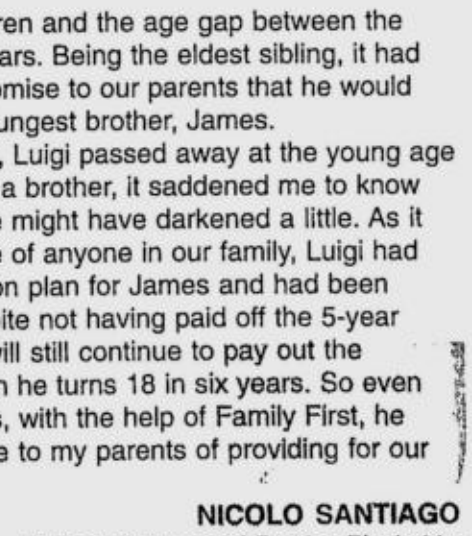
In my family, there are four children and the age gap between the eldest and the youngest is 15 years. Being the eldest sibling, it had always been my Kuya Luigi's promise to our parents that he would take care and provide for our youngest brother, James. Unfortunately, a few months ago, Luigi passed away at the young age of 27. Beyond the grief of losing a brother, it saddened me to know that James' security in the future might have darkened a little. As it turns out, beyond the knowledge of anyone in our family, Luigi had taken out a Family First education plan for James and had been paying it out for two years. Despite not having paid off the 5-year obligation to Family First, they will still continue to pay out the education benefit to James when he turns 18 in six years. So even though Luigi is no longer with us, with the help of Family First, he was still able to fulfill his promise to my parents of providing for our youngest brother in the future.

NICOLO SANTIAGO
Brother of deceased Berkley Planholder former ABS-CBN Director Luigi Santiago

And so now, more than ever, we re-affirm our vision and mission to serve the Filipino family.

As we mark 8 years in the industry, we thank all the people who have put their trust in us.

We, at Berkley and Family First, are bracing ourselves for even greater challenges ahead even as we set out to prove that we are well worth that trust.



The Securities and Exchange Commission has not approved this advertisement or determined if this is accurate or complete. Any representation to the contrary constitutes a violation of the securities regulation code and is criminally punishable. The public is encouraged to report immediately to the Securities and Exchange Commission any misrepresentation or false or inaccurate statement.

INQUIRER

JOB Market

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2005
Philippine Copyright 1995
3 SECTIONS

JOB Market is exclusively for job advertisements.
This special section comes FREE with your copy of the
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
published every Sunday and distributed in key cities
RATES (E-VAT exclusive)
P230 per column centimeter every Sunday
DEADLINES
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Thursday 12:00 noon

Get a copy of JOBMARKET (3 Sections) on Sunday Issue of Inquirer

Pushing the Limits.
Reaching new Heights.

Going above and beyond the competition. Surpassing boundaries. Knowing no limits. Each day, our employees drive to delight each and every one of our customers. Ask any Dell employee and you'll hear it firsthand - we are the reason customers choose Dell. Because we are always thinking of what customers really want. Are you ready to be the reason?

Careers at Dell. Consider the possibilities.

NOW HIRING

TECHNICAL SUPPORT AGENTS
CALL CENTER OPERATIONS
TECHNICAL TRAINERS
FINANCE PROFESSIONALS

Dell, America's Most Admired Company, is extending its worldwide network of call centers to Metro Manila. We are hiring more than 200 Technical Support Agents to support our global customers who use Dell products for home entertainment and education.

To apply, visit www.dell.com/philippines
or call us at 02 [illegible]
Visit our Recruiting Center at the 2nd Flr. Rob. Bldg. 6811 Ayala Ave. corner Senate St. Salcedo Village, Makati

DELL™
Consider the possibilities

Apply Now! All hires get passes to MTV Staying Alive Music Summit for HIV/AIDS on Dec. 1

www.etelecare.com

Hiring 2,000 Professionals VISIT TODAY. DECISION TOMORROW.

etelecare

TEAM

etelecare High-Flyer Promoted 7 times in 4 years

PMAP names eTelecare the Philippines' "Outstanding Employer of the Year"

Success Secrets: How to Rise up the Ranks to Operations Manager - Fast

The Real Story of an eTelecare High-Flyer: From Agent to Operations Manager, Leading More Than 500 agents

8 5806530 411-9030 05

Your success story can be our next cover.
If you have what it takes to get promoted 2-3 times a year, solve complex problems and contribute to our fun and supportive environment,come and join us at eTelecare, the country's Employer of the Year.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

- Technical Support Representatives
- Customer Service & Financial Associates
- Inbound/Outbound Sales Associates
- Multilingual Representatives (Spanish, Japanese, Italian & Dutch)
- Quality Assurance Associates
- IT Project Leads
- Senior Telecoms Specialists
- Senior Applications Developers
- Corporate Security Officers

etelecare GLOBAL SOLUTIONS

The world's most-awarded call center company

Call our hotlines: Manila 580-6530 • Cebu (032) 411-9030

www.etelecare.com

BE PART OF OUR DYNAMIC TEAM!

Web Design
- Bachelor's degree in Computer Science, Information Technology or equivalent
- Minimum 1 year of professional web design experience
- Experienced in site design, navigation, and information architecture
- Hands on experience with the following: Photoshop, Dreamweaver, Illustrator, PowerPoint, Flash, and other HTML programs
- Must have graphic design capabilities and/or experience
- Must have excellent communication skills
- Ability to work under tight deadlines and on multiple projects simultaneously, with minimum supervision
- Must have a good understanding of browser compatibility issues
- Have a good work attitude: proactive, responsive to change and open to feedback

Admin Assistant
- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree in any field
- Female, not more than 30 years of age
- Must be smart and have a pleasing personality
- Must have excellent communication skills both oral and written
- Knowledgeable in basic computer applications (MS Word, MS Excel, Powerpoint)
- Must be willing to provide on-call support to include after working hours and weekends
- Detail-oriented, efficient and well-organized
- Trustworthy, reliable and result-oriented
- Previous telemarketing experience is an advantage

PC Sales and Support
- Bachelor's degree in Computer Science, Information Technology or equivalent
- With Good Product Presentation Skills
- Female, not more than 30 years of age
- Must be knowledgeable in latest PC technology
- Knowledgeable in basic computer applications (MS Word, MS Excel, Powerpoint)
- Ability to develop sales leads, presentations, close sales
- Pleasing personality & effective public relation skills
- Must know how to handle calls, make telemarketing, set appointments
- Must be able to work under pressure, willing to do field works
- With ready network of clients/distribution channel is an advantage

Civil or Electrical Engineers
- Degree in BS Civil or Electrical Engineering
- Must be licensed
- Must be excellent in both oral and written English communication, personable and a graduate of a reputable University
- Computer literate
- Must be good in Design and Drafting using AutoCAD, Autodesk MAP and/or Autodesk Architectural Desktop
- Must have the ability to design and prepare drawings (CAD) in AutoCAD-based software

For interested applicants, please send your application letter together with your curriculum vitae, picture and other credentials to: Altigen Communications Philippines, Inc., 8101 Pearl Plaza Suite 5D, Pearl Drive, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. E-mail: Jobs@altigen.com.ph. Telephone: 910-0081.

We have vacancies for the following positions:

SALESMEN
- 25 to 32 years old, male or female
- Preferably college graduate, engineering or architecture
- Experience in selling construction and finishing materials
- Networks/contacts in the construction industry is an added advantage

ACCOUNTANT
- 25 to 30 years of age, male or female
- Preferably 2 to 3 years of experience in the preparation of final statements
- Computer literate
- Knowledgeable with government regulatory requirements and tax matters

WAREHOUSEMAN / DRIVER
- 25 to 35 years of age, preferably male
- 3 to 5 years experience in warehousing operations

Please apply in writing with the latest photo and resumé at the address below:

Attention: HRD
SKYCON
4th Floor, Fortune Bldg.
144 Pasig Boulevard, Pasig City 1600
or send email to: skycon@pacific.net.ph

fourthrock INFORMATION SOLUTIONS

24-E Summit One Tower
530 Shaw Blvd
Mandaluyong City
Tel +632-5349249
Fax +632-7170605

Fourth Rock, Inc. a group of young, dynamic and hard-working IT professionals invites the following to join its enterprising team:

WEB APPLICATION DEVELOPERS
- Responsible for systems design, technical specification development, programming and testing of different web applications
- At least two (2) years experience in programming web and business applications, at least one (1) year of which must involve systems analysis and design
- Qualifications include:
  - ☐ Intensive experience in: Java/J2EE, HTML/CSS, Javascript, XML/XSLT
  - ☐ Proficiency in: MSSQL, MySQL
  - ☐ Knowledge of Flash and image editors (JPG, GIF, PNG) is an advantage

Qualified applicants must submit their latest comprehensive resumé with attached photo by email to **apply@fourthrock.ph**.

LANGUAGE TEACHERS NEEDED
Antipolo Area
Tel. 658-1374
email : emanila@hanmail.net
admin@emanila.net

A Professional Theater Co.
Is urgently accepting

SALES AGENTS

with previous sales exp.: Be responsible for establishing, maintaining & soliciting business for the company.

Please come for an orientation on November 29, 2005, 8:00 - 10:00 AM only at:

2/F PDC Bldg.
CCP Complex Roxas Blvd., Pasay City
For Inquiries call 832-3661/832-1125
loc. 1620/1621 or 0920-9535381

ACCOUNTING CLERK
Female • Computer Literate •
At least 1 year experience.
Apply at 437-D A. Juan St., San Juan or call 7251114

JP LANGUAGE CENTER, INC.
is currently in need of:

SECRETARY
- Female, 21 years old and above
- Computer literate
- Hardworking with pleasing personality

Apply at Unit 907 The Orient Square Bldg., F. Ortigas Jr. Rd. (formerly Emerald Ave.) Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel. No. 631-0199; Cell No. (0917) 425-2603

TIRED OF WORKING FOR OTHERS? DO YOU WANT TO HAVE YOUR OWN BUSINESS? DO YOU LACK THE CAPITAL TO START YOUR OWN BUSINESS?

WE ARE OFFERING AN UNUSUAL AND RARE OPPORTUNITY FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP THROUGH AN "EQUITY OWNERSHIP" PROGRAM FOR UP TO 30% OR MORE OF THE COMPANY DEPENDING ON THE DELIVERY OF PRE-AGREED ORGANIZATIONAL AND SALES TARGETS WITHIN A DEFINED TIME PARAMETER. THIS PROGRAM IS OPEN TO ENTREPRENEURIALLY-INCLINED MANAGERS AND WELL-ORGANIZED SALES GROUPS

We are looking for sales heads or groups of sales heads with strong multi-level marketing background. The primary function is to organize and manage a sales network to operate over several regions and/or provinces and to deliver the required sales volume. The requirements are as follows:

- Must be able to quickly organize a sales group that can operate over several regions/provinces including Metro Manila
- Must have strong background in multi-level marketing systems whether binary or uni-level systems
- Must be able to operate independently in his area of responsibility
- Must be able to handle sales and sales support functions such as training for his territory
- Must be self-driven, highly result-oriented, skilled in dealing with people and entrepreneurially-oriented
- Must have an impressive track record in multi-level marketing particularly in organizing sales team or recruiting effective sales heads
- Strong background in binary systems will be a plus
- A background in HEALTH-CARE OR PERSONAL-CARE PRODUCTS will be a plus
- Male or Female 30 to 50 years of age

In addition to the ownership opportunities the package includes salary or allowances, overriding commissions, performance bonuses, transportation and representation allowances, profit-sharing incentives and the usual corporate benefits.

Interested and qualified applicants may send their comprehensive resume in MS Word format plus a recent photograph by email to recruitment_hr_mails@yahoo.com or mail to Makati P.O. Box 3766

Realize Your IDEALS!

Want a fulfilling and challenging job? One that would help you realize your potentials and hone you as an effective leader?

Make the right decision, Join IDEALS – The Initiatives for Dialogue and Empowerment Through Alternative Legal Services, Inc., a development-oriented legal service non-government organization helping people empower themselves and transform their lives. We work for the marginalized sector's access to justice.

We are in need of the following:

LAWYERS
- At least two years' experience in litigation and development work
- With good oral and writing skills
- With background/orientation in development work

LEGAL RESEARCHERS
- Law graduate (Bachelor of Laws)
- With good research & writing skills
- With background in development work

We offer competitive salaries and benefits as well as travel opportunities. Send your comprehensive resumé now to The Executive Director, IDEALS 75B K9th Street, Kamias, Q.C. or e-mail at ideals05@yahoo.com

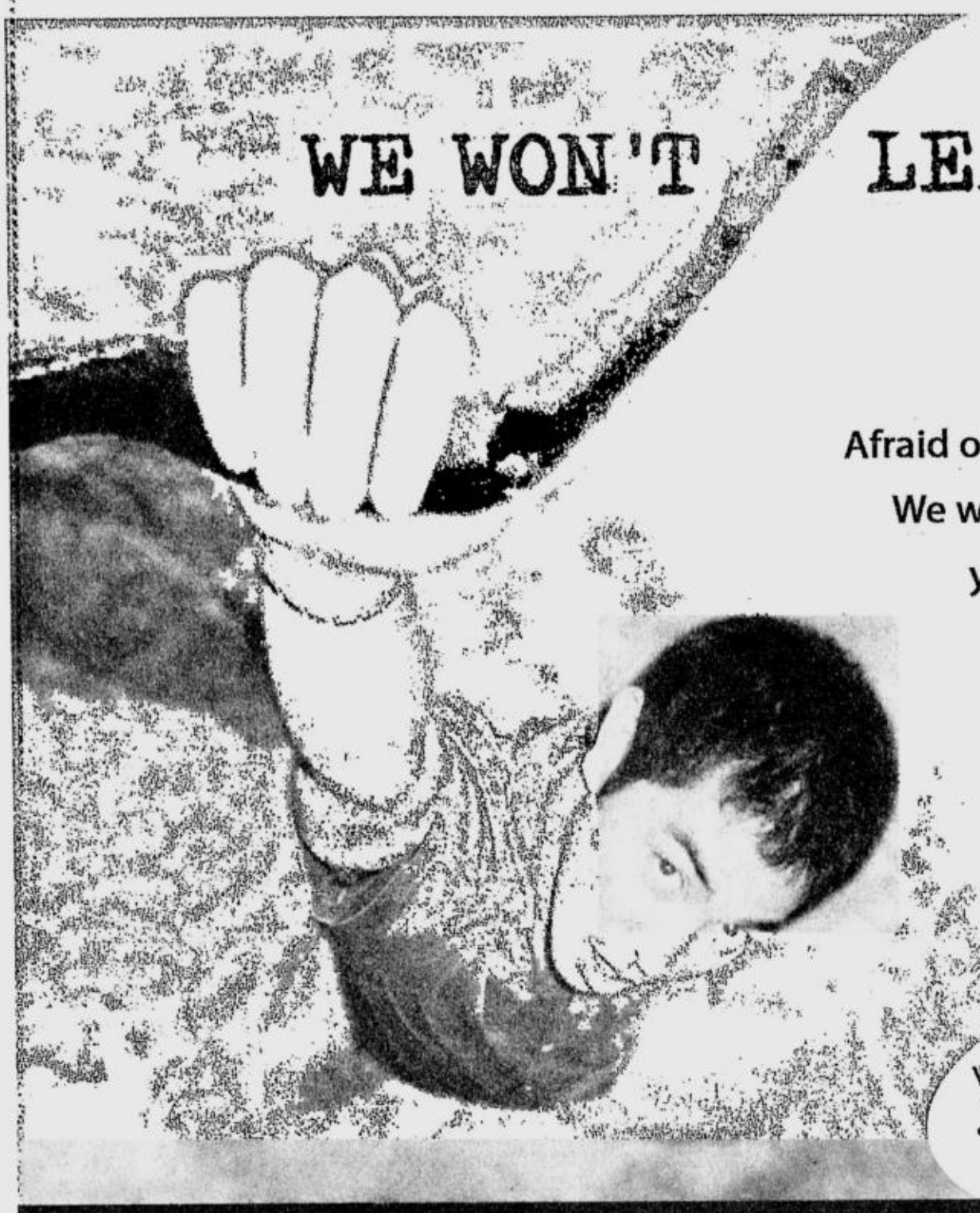
A multinational electronics manufacturing company is in urgent need of:

PURCHASING ENGINEER

QUALIFICATIONS:
- Male
- Graduate of Electronics Engineering
- Minimum 3 years experience in Purchasing of Electronics-related Parts & 2 years experience in Electronics Manufacturing
- Excellent Communication Skills (English)

Interested applicants are requested to submit their resumé in person. You may also FAX or E-MAIL it to the contact information indicated below

HETRONIC ASIA
Lot. 4 Phase V. 121 East Main Avenue, Laguna Technopark, Binan, Laguna
PHONE: (049) 5440003 to 05; FAX: (049) 5440006; E-MAIL: [illegible]
WEBSITE: www.hetronic.com



WE WON'T LEAVE YOU HANGING

Afraid of losing your job? Don't worry.
We won't let you go because at PeopleSupport,
your employment is not coterminous with
your account.

That's
JOB SECURITY
and
PEACE OF MIND
for you.

We need Transcriptionists!
• Great typing skills (60 wpm)
• Excellent English writing skills
• Keen attention to detail
Note: This is a day shift position

WE ARE LOOKING FOR eReps™
Customer Service, Technical Support, Sales and Travel
We offer a premium for Spanish proficiency!

• Excellent English communication skills
• Strong customer service skills
• Problem solving and analytical skills
• Computer and internet proficiency
• College education
• Willing to work shifts

CORPORATE POSITIONS AVAILABLE:

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY: IT Director • Helpdesk Analyst • CMS Administrator • Telecommunications Engineer Telecommunications Administrator • Dialer Administrator • Database Administrator • Reporting Analyst
ADMINISTRATION: Purchasing Director HR: Employee Relations Officer SERVICE DELIVERY: QA Director Program Director • Forcedesk Manager • SALES: Business Development Manager TRAINING: Lead Trainer for Management Development • Technical Trainer • Communication Specialists • Course Developer

For corporate openings, email resumé to manilajobs@peoplesupport.com. Indicate position on the subject line.

Visit us and be interviewed right away
PeopleSupport Center
Ayala cor Sen Gil Puyat Avenues, Makati City
Monday to Saturday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
Call our HR Hotline: (02) 755-2600
Apply online at www.peoplesupport.com

PEOPLESUPPORT®

Philippine Business for Social Progress

Helping People Help Themselves

In the face of poverty, we see endless opportunities for growth

Through the years, our job has meant more than just its pay. If you believe that you can make a difference in other people's lives, we invite you to fill in any of the following positions:

COMPANY NURSE

The Tasks
Promotes and maintains the staff's emotional, mental and physical health. Effectively and efficiently designs and administers the Foundation's benefits package and corporate wellness programs. Implements the Attendance Monitoring System.

The Requirements
The candidate must be a Registered Nurse. He/she must have at least 1-year related work experience in a similar organization and must have long-term plans of pursuing a career in the Philippines. He/she must have excellent negotiating, time management and interpersonal skills.

GENERAL SERVICES UNIT MANAGER

The Tasks
Prepares and supervises the efficient implementation and discharge of general administration functions for the Foundation. Optimizes use of the Foundation's physical assets. Oversees inventory management, maintenance and disposal of fixed assets. Provides logistics support to ensure smooth flow of business operations. Develops and rolls out workplace systems that streamline administrative processes and assure safety & security. Leads the implementation of an institutional EMS program. Markets the Foundation's training facilities.

The Requirements
Interested applicants must have a college degree in Industrial / Business Management or any related field. He/she must have at least 3 years managerial experience in a similar organization with working knowledge in EMS, productivity/quality management and legal rulings pertaining to building codes, safety, licensing, etc. He/she must have excellent negotiating, communication and interpersonal skills.

Please forward your resumé and transcript of records on or before 09 December 2005 to:

THE HRD MANAGER
Philippine Business for Social Progress
Philippine Social Development Center, Magallanes cor. Real Sts.,
Intramuros, Manila
Tel.: 527-7741 to 51 • Fax: 527-3743
Email: hrd@pbsp.org.ph • Website: www.pbsp.org.ph

SEND YOUR RESUMÉS INSTANTLY
VISIT US AT www.jobmarketonline.com
JOB Market

A garment manufacturing company exporting established brand names is currently seeking for competent, aggressive and dedicated professionals to join our dynamic team to fill-in the following positions:

MERCHANDISERS
• Female, preferably graduate of Fashion Design or related course
• At least 3 years experience handling said position
• Knowledgeable in sourcing and product development, costing, consumption
• Computer literate and effective in oral/written communication skills
• Hardworking and can work under pressure

SAMPLE MAKERS
• At least 5 years experience as sample maker
• Preferably knows how to understand technical specifications
• Technically adept in cut and sew operation with solid experience in all phases of garment operation
• Can construct sample pants, jackets, etc.
• Hardworking and can work under pressure

HRD OFFICER
• Female, 23-26 years old
• Graduate of Psychology/Behavioral Science Course
• Minimum of 2 years experience in said position
• Knowledgeable in all facets of human resources management & development
• Knows how to handle confidentiality, with strong personality

Interested applicants may send their resumé with recent photo and credentials to:

ARTIF & CO. PHIL. INC.
#231 M.H. Del Pilar St.
Poblacion, Pulilan, Bulacan
c/o HRD
Tel.# (044) 910-1365 to 66
Fax # (044) 910-1361
Email: hrd_artif@artif.com.ph

WANTED: FOR IMMEDIATE DEPLOYMENT
to
Armed Forces Hospital Southern Region
Khamis Mushayt Saudi Arabi

REGISTERED NURSES / MIDWIVES
GENERAL DENTISTS
DENTAL TECHNICIANS
DENTAL SURGICAL ASSISTANTS
PC TRAINER / INTERNET COORDINATOR
EEG TECHNICIAN
MEDICAL GAS TECHNICIAN
A/C CONTROLLER

Please submit 2 sets in long brown envelop resume with detailed job description, Diploma & Transcript of Records, Board Rating & Certificate, PRC I.D., Employment & Training Certificates, NBI Clearance, 2 pcs. 2x2 photos to

OLIVE INTERNATIONAL MANPOWER RESOURCES, INC.
POEA License-096-LB-111805-PLe
Unit 403, Alexander House, 132 Amorsolo Street
Legaspi Village, Makati City
Telefax 8175832/8170492/7592329

"For Manpower Pooling only. No fees to be collected. Beware of Illegal Recruiters."

is advertising your thing?

If you want a career where your creative juices are flowing, or work in an environment that's fun and exciting, then you're what we're looking for!

We're searching for a Creative Director who will lead a creative team in generating breakthrough ideas for communications; a Senior Designer with experience in traditional and non-traditional advertising and can effectively handle a pool of artists, and a Account Executive who will take charge of growing a business in communications, to be a part of our small but powerful team.

Send us your resumes now. Job opportunities available until December 2005. Interested applicants may e-mail their resumes and portfolios to careeropp@inbox.com

ALT Health Foundation, Inc.

The Foundation for Healthcare Alternatives, Inc. or ALT*Health Foundation, Inc. is a non-stock non-profit organization established to provide alternative healthcare services to members of the development community (primarily for NGOs, cooperatives and other social enterprises).

ALT*Health Foundation is currently seeking for highly qualified candidates for the position of:

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Qualifications:
- College degree holder preferably in a health-related field
- Medical degree or post-graduate study an advantage
- Familiarity with social health services provision for development organizations
- Exposure to NGO work or development programs an advantage
- With at least 3-5 years experience in direct Project Management
- Highly effective leadership and people skills
- Excellent networking ability with development organizations
- Must have a heart for development work
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Proficient in MS office applications especially Word, Excel and Powerpoint

Please send your application letter and resume to:
The President
ALT Health Foundation, Inc.
PRRM Building 56 Mother Ignacia Avenue cor. Dr. Lazcano St.,
Quezon City
or
E-mail to: althealth_foundation@yahoo.com

It's a long way to the top ...
And we will get you there.

Because we care.

JOB FAIR

November 28-30
9am-5pm

5th Floor
ELJ Center (ABS-CBN)
Mother Ignacia QC

Join the NCO Group RMH Asiapacific Teleservices Inc. and experience how we value our employees' personal and career growth. Enjoy a career that provides great opportunites. We show great value for our customer and we show great value for our employees as well.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Customer Service Agents
Customer Sales Agents

P15,000 - P18,000 Basic Salary
P5,000 Regularization Bonus
20% Night Differential :: Free Meal :: Paid Training
P1,000 per successful Referral :: Medical & Life Insurance
Fast Career Movement :: Performance-Based Bonuses
Open Door Policy :: Company Parties

Other Openings:

Directory Assistance Agents
Administrative Assistants
Student-Trainees

Business Manager
Company Doctor
Customer Service Agents (Part-Time)

NCO GROUP
RMH

Call us at : 981-7558 to 60

Email us at : manilarecruitment@ncogroup.com

INQUIRER

JOB Market

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2005
Philippine Copyright 1995
3 SECTIONS

JOB Market is exclusively for job advertisements.
This special section comes FREE with your copy of the
PHILIPPINE DAILY **INQUIRER**
published every Sunday and distributed in key cities
RATES (E-VAT exclusive)
P230 per column centimeter every Sunday
DEADLINES
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Thursday 12:00 noon

SECOND SECTION OF JOBMARKET

Text us your feedback: Inquirer jm name/city/message. Send to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

For jobseekers, log on to: **www.jobmarketonline.com**

★★ *Where You Find The Best.*

Your vision: To reach for success.
Our promise: The opportunity to excel.

You ll

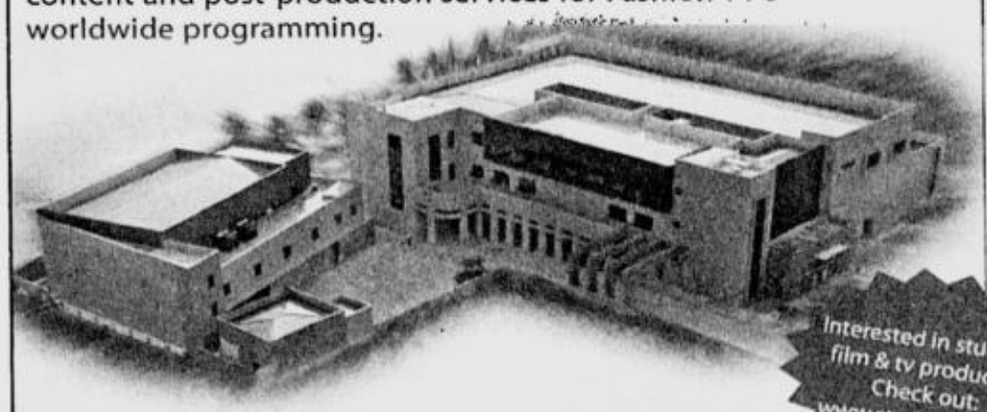
A passion for excellence

Deutsche Bank

TECHNICAL/PROFESSIONAL

...brings fashiontv to the Philippines!

Bigfoot Entertainment acquired the master franchise for Fashion TV in the Philippines and Singapore, and will provide content and post-production services for Fashion TV's worldwide programming.



Bigfoot's Production Facility on Mactan Island, Cebu
More info about Bigfoot Entertainment at www.bf-e.com

Interested in studying film & tv production Check out: www.study-film.com

MARKETING DIRECTOR

Job Summary:
Responsible for developing and directing all marketing and sales efforts for Fashion TV's regional headquarters.

Qualifications:
- 5+ years of experience as Advertising/ Marketing Director in the broadcast industry
- Experience in the fashion industry
- Background in marketing and sales
- Willing to relocate to Cebu

ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER

Job Summary:
Spearheads Fashion TV's regional sales efforts, as well as develop new sales leads and create long-lasting client relationships.

Qualifications:
- 5+ years of experience in network or advertising sales
- Experience in the fashion industry
- Familiar with the media and entertainment industry
- Production experience a plus
- Willing to relocate to Cebu

Fashion TV Asia - **http://www.ftv.com**
Int. Production Facility, Mactan Island, Cebu

Interested applicants may send their application letter and resumé to: **jobs@bf-e.com**

AUDITOR
FOR A SUPERMARKET CHAIN (MANAGEMENT POSITION)

- CPA, 25-35 y/o, w/ experience in supermarket / retail operation (auditing)

Manos Outsourcing
Call : Agnes Escalona
at 411-2630 / 926-9857
929-8328
email:
manos@mozcom.com

Where you find the best.

JOB Market
VISIT US AT
www.jobmarketonline.com

Sweet Crystals Integrated Sugar Mill Corporation

One of the country's leading raw sugar manufacturing company is in need of additional personnel for its Makati office.

FINANCIAL ANALYST

- female, not more than 29 years old
- graduate of Accounting
- 2-3 years experience in accounting operations and financial analysis in a manufacturing company or an auditing firm

The successful candidate will report directly to the Chief Financial Officer

If you are looking for a competitive compensation and challenging work, then submit your application letter indicating your desired salary, resumé with 2x2 picture not later than November 30, 2005 to:

Ms. Racquel Canlas
Sweet Crystals Integrated Sugar Mill Corporation
5th Floor National Life Bldg., Ayala Avenue, Makati City
or email: kaye@aacisugar.com

Supervisory Leadership Development

December 2, 2005, 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m., Richmonde Hotel

The productive or anemic performance of your people and your business depends largely on your supervisors. If they can effectively guide, control and motivate the people, the desired result will be achieved. Unfortunately, supervision is anything but easy. In fact, what often happens is that when a productive worker is promoted to a supervisory position, the company loses an effective worker and gains a poor supervisor. This is known as the Peter Principle and this is largely attributable to lack of fundamental skills and attitude training in supervision. Lack of training is a sure-fire formula for failure. This powerful program is designed to equip and empower the Supervisors by providing them the fundamental and advanced concepts and tools to professionalize their management style and enable them to effectively lead their team.

LEARNING SEED

Session I : Why Some Supervisors Fail
Session II : Becoming a Supervisor
Session III : Some Nuts And Bolts of Supervison
Session IV : Planning and Goal Setting
Session V : Leading Your People
Session VI : How to Motivate for Result

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

- New or recently promoted supervisors with less than three years of formal supervisory experience
- Experienced supervisors or managers reentering the job market and looking to update their resumes
- Informal leaders who have an unofficial supervisory role of leading teams of coworkers or volunteers
- Individuals whose career plans include becoming a supervisor in the near future

SEMINAR INVESTMENT

>>> EARLY BIRD RATE <<<
P 1,195 + vat until November 24

>>>REGULAR RATE<<<
P 1,495 + vat starting November 25

(complete with snacks, handouts and certificates)

CALL US NOW FOR INQUIRIES/RESERVATIONS
PORTER & MILES Look for Mercy 638-7719/20
Fax Number 637-6890 Email:pmi@alfox.net Website:www.pmi.com.ph

REGISTRATION FORM Kindly complete the necessary information & fax this form at 637-6890

Name of Participant(s)	Position	Email

Company Name: _____
Address: _____
Contact Person : _____
E-mail: _____
Tel. Nos.: _____ Fax No.: _____
Line of Business: _____

OUTBOUND CALL AGENTS

Candidates should have...

- Assertive Sales Skills
- ✓ Excellent English Communication Skills
- ✓ Strong Customer Service Orientation
- ✓ At least 1 year of Outbound Calling Experience in a US campaign

and should be...

- Honest, Reliable, Dedicated and Hardworking
- College Graduate
- ✓ Male/Female (at least 25 years old)

ONLY THOSE WITH THE ABOVE QUALIFICATIONS WILL BE ENTERTAINED.

Bring your resume and drop by our office on Tuesday (Nov 29) to Thursday (Dec 1) between 7AM to 11AM only.

A SUPERIOR salary with 25% night differential, attendance & guaranteed performance incentives plus training await the chosen few.

Join us and help fulfill the lives of other people!

National Relief Charities – Manila Center
U2504 Prestige Tower, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
www.nrcprograms.org
You may also email your resumes to nrcmanila@yahoo.com

ThreeBond

Three Bond Singapore Pte Ltd

We are Expanding!

Manufacturer of Adhesives and Sealants, a Japanese multinational company located in Makati is looking for a dynamic individual to fill-up the position of:

ACCOUNT OFFICER

Responsible for providing customer service and marketing

JOB REQUIREMENTS:

- Graduate of any Bachelor's Degree
- Male; Age: 24 to 29 years old
- Willingness and drive to do fieldwork sales is required; previous experience is an advantage.
- Has at least 1 year sales related experience
- Must possess excellent oral and written English communication skills
- Must be proficient in the use of computers and various applications
- Must have driver's license or willing to secure.
- Familiar in PEZA areas.

Opening for Account officer is for immediate hiring.

1. E-mail your resume with photo at: **owle@threebond.com.ph**
2. To learn more about ThreeBond, visit **www.threebond.co.jp**

ENGINEERS

PROJECT MANAGERS

- BSCE, five (5) years managerial experience, knowledgeable in horizontal projects especially land development, at least 30 years old, male, computer literate, willing to be assigned in Bulacan and Cavite.

PROJECT ENGINEERS

- BSCE, at least five (5) years experience in construction monitoring and supervision with knowledge in basic design and estimating.

CADET ENGINEERS

- Graduate BSCE, BSME or BSEE, at least 22 years old, male, computer literate, willing to undertake fieldwork in Bulacan and Cavite.

SUREWELL EQUITIES INC.
Ground Floor, Kassel Condominium
#2625 Taft Avenue, Malate, Manila
Tel. No. 551-7771 to 73

JOB VACANCY

A leading and prestigious power plant company in Panay Island is in need of:

One (1) SHIFT MANAGER

The Shift Manager directly supervise, organize, plan; coordinate and control the power plant operations in order to ensure continuous generation and supply of electricity in accordance with customer's instructions and station's operating standards.

Interested applicants must have the following qualifications:

- Professional Mechanical Engineer
- Minimum of 5 years experience in power plant operations and 3 years of people handling
- Must have leadership qualities, organizational and interpersonal skills
- Excellent oral and written communications
- Computer proficiency preferred
- Willing to work in shifts

Quality applicants may send their comprehensive resumé to:

Attention : HR Officer
P.O. Box 229
Iloilo City Post Office

BE ALL THAT YOU CAN BE...

TECHNICAL SUPPORT REPRESENTATIVES
Experience with accounting applications and software support is a must; accounting knowledge is a plus

CALL CENTER MANAGER
At least five (5) years call center experience; assistant call center manager level or higher current or previous experience; strong motivational skills; extremely personable

QUALITY ASSURANCE SUPERVISOR
College graduate; must have two (2) years supervisory experience, at least one of which should be in Operations

EMPLOYEE DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE
College graduate; excellent interpersonal skills; proficiency in the use of computer and various applications; attentive to detail; highly motivated, assertive and can work under pressure; well organized; thinks out of the box; innovative

ON-THE-JOB TRAINEES
Third / Fourth year college (preferably business or accounting course) required to complete On-the-Job training hours

CALL CENTER AGENTS (Part-time / Full time)
At least second year college / graduate of any course; eighteen (19) years old and above; ability to effectively communicate in English; willing to work in various shifts including graveyard; typing speed (minimum of 25wpm)

ASSISTANT CENTER MANAGER
One (1) - Three (3) years managerial position in a call center; account management experience and client coordination skills preferably in an existing assistant manager position; should have experience handling at least one hundred (100) agents at a time

SUPERVISORS / TEAM LEADERS
(Technical and Customer Service account)
TRAINER
(Outbound account)
Must have at least six (6) months - one (1) year supervisory / outbound training experience in a call center; must be an extrovert and must have an energetic personality; ability to multi-task; good time management skill

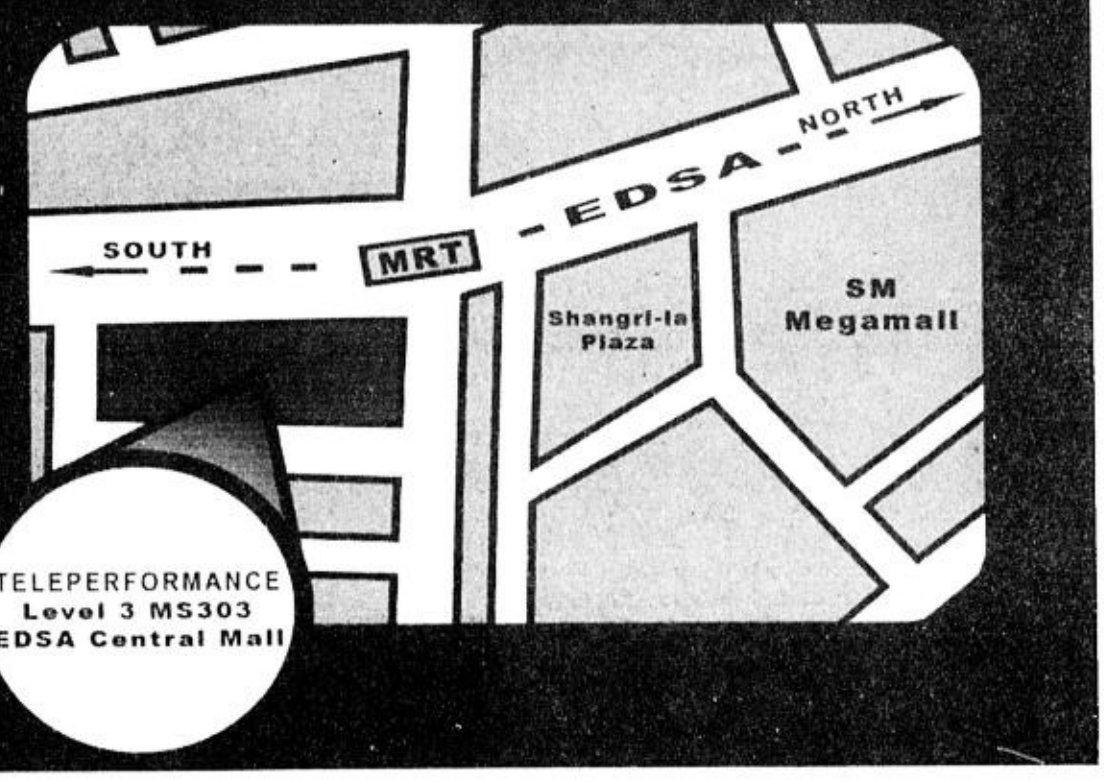
DATABASE PROGRAMMER
Very knowledgeable in Microsoft SQL Server, Crystal reports, MySQL, Visual Basic, Linux, Apache and Scripting languages; experienced in programming user interfaces and database processing under Web and Client Server environment

All positions require excellent verbal and written communication skills
and knowledge in Microsoft Office and Internet Explorer

APPLY in BUSINESS ATTIRE

Teleperformance
GLOBAL CUSTOMER RELATIONSHIP MANAGEMENT

RECRUITMENT DEPARTMENT
Level 3 MS 303 EDSA Central Mall
Mandaluyong City
Hotline: (02) 637-7111
www.teleperformance.ph
careers@teleperformance.ph
(please indicate the position in the subject field)
http://www.jobstreet.com/ph/teleperformance.htm



InteraDent®
InteraDent Zahntechnik Phil., Inc.

TÜV SÜD

A premier Dental Laboratory specializing in precision dental works and Implant Supraconstructions is inviting

Dental Technicians

with at least *3 years work experience*
Qualified applicants will undergo specialized training and receive attractive compensation and benefits package.

Submit resumé with latest 2x2 picture to:

Human Resources Department
InteraDent Bldg. Pascor Drive
Sto. Niño, Parañaque City
Tel: (02) 852-4029 to 31
Email: hrd@interadent.com.ph

EVA AIRWAYS CORPORATION

is in immediate need of

one (1) Reservation Staff

Qualifications:
- Male/Female
- Under 25 years old
- College graduate
- Fluent in English (preferably Mandarin speaking)
- With pleasing personality, independent and aggressive
- Knowledgeable in Microsoft Word, Excel and Powerpoint
- Resides in Manila, Makati, Alabang, Parañaque, Las Piñas and Quezon City.

Please send your resumé on or before December 2, 2005.

Personnel Department
EVA AIRWAYS CORPORATION
23rd Floor, LKG Tower
6801 Ayala Ave., Makati City

Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer and visit it online at www.jobmarketonline.com

SEND YOUR RESUMÉS INSTANTLY

JOB Market

CANADIAN IMMIGRATION CONSULTANCY
The Philippines' #1 Immigration Consultant

What's the *best gift* you can give your family *for Christmas?*

A gift the whole family shares for a lifetime.
A gift more valuable than anything money can buy
A gift worth millions of pesos for all the members of your family
A gift that keeps on giving forever.

Can you ever find a better gift than this to give your family?

www.go2canada.com
FREE ASSESSMENT

www.go2canada.com

MAIN OFFICE
Blk 25, Unit 4 GIF Uniwide Coastal Mall Tambo Parañaque City
Phone (02) 8798334 / 8790304 / 8797998 / 8790313 / 8790311 8526238 / 8798209 / 8790308 / 8790218 /8790203 / 8790214 8526403 / 8798396 / 8793118 / 8798409 / 8790217 /8790215 8790307 / 8525614 / 8525615 / 8793116 / 8793110 / 8790309
Email. inquiry@go2canada.com

GALLERIA
Unit 1201 Galleria Corporate Center, EDSA cor Ortigas Ave., Q.C.
Phone 6875931 / 6875932 / 6875934 / 6875935 / 6875936 6871049 / 6875937 / 6875401 / 8798334 / 8790309 / 8793116 8790313 / 8798209 / 8798306
Email. galleria@go2canada.com

BACLARAN
2030 GG Cruz St., cor Aguara St., Baclaran, Paranaque
Phone: 8540725-27 / 8918673 / 5517989 / 8798334
Email baclaran@go2canada.com

CUBAO
3-UGF Don Consolacion Bldg., Gen Roxas St., Araneta Center Cubao
Phone 913-5243 / 913-5685 / 913-5304 / 913-5269 913-5352 / 913-5663
Email. cubao@go2canada.com

MAKATI CITY
Unit 403 Peninsula Court Paseo de Roxas, Makati
Phone 7517130 / 7517137 / 7517139 7517140 / 7517143
Email: makati@go2canada.com

QUEZON CITY
Unit 302 Pacific Corporate Center 131 West Avenue, Quezon City
Phone: 376-2072 376-1358 376-2565 376-2925
Email westavenue@go2canada.com

ALABANG
3/F Richville Corporate Tower, Madrigal Business Park Alabang-Zapote Road Ayala Alabang
Phone 8793116 18 / 8790309 / 8525614 8007670 / 0917-8077761 / 0918-4537678
Email. alabang@go2canada.com

MALATE
Suite 34, 2/F Midland Plaza Condominium M Adriatico St. Ermita Manila
Phone 5228403 / 5220490
Email. malate@go2canada.com

BAGUIO CITY
Level 3 Unit 10, Pelizloy Centrum, 22 & 24 Session Rd., Baguio City near Marin Marketing Corporation
Phone (074) 4470180 / 3044414
Email baguio@go2canada.com

SM City Baguio Branch
2F Rm 201 SM City Baguio
Luneta Hill, Baguio City
Phone: (074)-440 7993 / 9801 / 9802

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY
4th Executive Rm Comedio Bldg., Corrales Ave., Cagayan de Oro City
Phone (088) 22726716
Email cagayandeoro@go2canada.com

CEBU CITY
Suite 1204 Keppel Center Samar Loop cor. Cardinal Rosales Ave., Business Park, Cebu City
Phone (032) 2340111
Email. cebu@go2canada.com

DAGUPAN CITY
GIF Floran Hotel, Rizal St. Dagupan City
Phone. (075) 5150155 - 0920-5810431 - 0917-9077761
Email dagupan@go2canada.com

DAVAO CITY
107 GF Goldwin Bldg., Quirino Ave., Davao City
Phone (082) 2226183 / 3051714 - Fax (082) 3051661
Email. davao@go2canada.com

DUMAGUETE CITY
69 Corner Real and San Juan Streets, Dumaguete City
Phone. (035) 4220008
Email dumaguete@go2canada.com

ILOILO CITY
Rm 404 - 4th floor, Perpetual Succour Business Center, Jalandoni St., Iloilo City
Phone (033) 5030811
Email iloilo@go2canada.com

NAGA CITY
3/F Bichara Theater Mall Gen. Luna St., Naga City
Phone (054) 4726512 / 4726510 / (02) 8798144
Email: naga@go2canada.com

FREE SEMINARS & ASSESSMENT
METRO MANILA OFFICES

- Uniwide Coastal Mall, Parañaque City - Daily @ 10AM, 2PM or 5:30PM - See contact details above.
- Alabang - Wednesdays @ 6PM - See contact details above.
- Baclaran - Daily @ 10AM, 2PM or 5:30PM - See contact details above.
- Cubao - Daily @ 10AM, 2PM or 5:30PM - See contact details above.
- Malate - Mondays to Saturdays @ 10AM & 2PM - See contact details above
- Makati City - Monday to Thursday @ 8AM - 9PM - See contact details above.
- Robinson's Galleria - Daily @ 10AM, 2PM or 5:30PM - See contact details above.
- West Avenue, Quezon City - Daily @ 10AM, 2PM, 5PM - See contact details above.

PROVINCIAL SEMINARS

- NAGA CITY - Wed @ 10AM, 2PM & 5PM / Sat @ 10AM & 2PM - See contact details above.
- DAGUPAN CITY - Daily @ 10AM & 2PM - FREE Seminar & Assessment - See contact details above
- November 27 - URDANETA CITY, PANGASINAN @2PM - Majoha Hotel & Restaurant - Mc. Arthur Highway, Nancayasan [Call Baby/Sidney Magtague (075) 568 2640 / 0919-748 4538 / (075) 568 0588 / (02) 879 0301
- December 4 - BALANGA, BATAAN @ 10AM - Aguirre St. Poblacion, Balanga City, Bataan [Call Haydee Palad (047) 791-5712 | Lyn 0920 226-4744 | Ness 0919 473-2442]
- December 10 - SAN FERNANDO, PAMPANGA @ 9AM - Bahay Kamayan Restaurant Clongapo Japan Rd., [Call Grace D Antiojo 02-8798396 | Conrado Garcia 045-961-2776 or 045-961-3782]
- December 17 -LIGTASAN, TARLAC CITY @ 9AM - La Maja Rica Hotel Mc Arthur Hiway, Ligtasan, Tarlac [Call Angie Parruluan (045) 611 2051 to 2053 | Grace Antiojo (02) 879 8306]

"Don't let yourself be misrepresented. Transact only with authorized CIC Consultants."

More employment opportunities in today's JOB MARKET

INQUIRER

Get a copy of JOBMARKET (3 Sections) on Sunday issue of Inquirer

JOB Market

★ Where You Find The Best.

Positions Available:

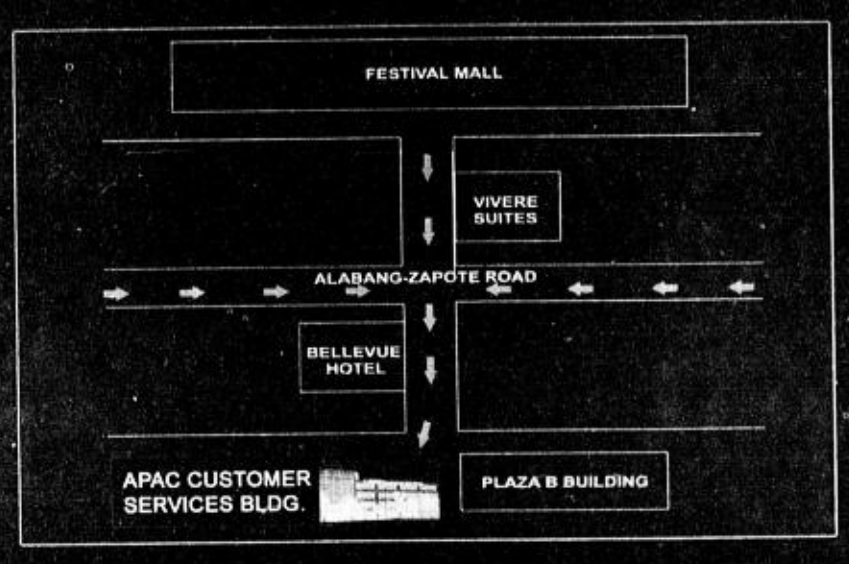
- Customer Service Representatives
- Telephone Sales Representatives
- E-Help Desk Representatives
- HR Assistant (HRIS)

Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree holder
- Excellent oral and written communications skills
- Proficient in MS Office
- Good typing skills
- Customer service and/or sales experience an advantage

Enjoy the following benefits:

- Highly competitive starting salaries
- Meal and transportation allowances
- Health and life insurance
- Paid commission and/or bonuses where applicable
- Travel and training opportunities abroad
- Aggressive internal promotion
- The latest tools, cutting edge protocols and the newest development environments
- P5,000 hiring bonus after training



Come and see us at:

Plaza C, Northgate Cyberzone, Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa
Mondays thru Fridays, from 9 am to 6 pm
Or call us at: 7576500 or 7576566

Apply online: **recruitment@apacmail.com**
Or visit our website: **www.apaccustomerservices.com**

APAC Customer Services, Inc.

Fast-track your career

And join APAC's Open House Recruitment from Nov 28-Dec1!

Receive Php 5,000 right after training!

We don't just hire the BEST EMPLOYEES

WE MAKE THEM

Now continuously hiring CSRs with excellent communication skills, superior spelling and listening skills, good customer service skills, and are willing to be assigned in our call centers in MAKATI and STA. ROSA LAGUNA

If you have what it takes,
YOU CAN GET A JOB ON THE SAME DAY!

Our Customer Service Representatives or CSRs get the following:

- P13,000 Basic Rate / Month
- P2,500 Productivity Pay / Month
- 10% Night Differential Pay
- Flexible Benefits
- Regularization after 4 months, including the Training Period
- Performance Bonuses and other Incentives

And they have to provide:

- Superior Customer Service
- Enhanced Directory Assistance which includes Business and Residential Listings
- Movie Times and Listings
- Real-Time Directions

To our customers in the United States and the United Kingdom

NO SELLING
NO TELEMARKETING
NO QUOTAS

GET HIRED!...AND GET PhP2,500.00! Here's how...

- ✓ Be hired today as a CSR and be trained starting December 2005
- ✓ Must stay employed for 6 months (pay-out on the 180th day)
- ✓ Must not incur more than 6 sick days in the 6-month period
- ✓ Must be assigned in Sta. Rosa, Laguna

Starting Dec. 1, 2005, you can apply in our soon-to-open Sta. Rosa Call Center at: BTS Facility SRE 2a Commercial, Bo. San Jose, Sta. Rosa, Laguna

TO APPLY, VISIT US AT OUR MAKATI OFFICE: 11th Floor Tower 2, RCBC Plaza Ayala Avenue corner Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City. Tel: 755-1600.

OR AT OUR ALABANG RECRUITMENT OFFICE:
Unit 102 Ground Floor Kennedy Center, Prime Street, Madrigal Business Park Ayala Alabang Muntinlupa City. Tel: 772-3976 or 772-3978

PLEASE BRING AN UPDATED RESUME WITH PHOTO

INFOnixx

An Equal Opportunity Employer

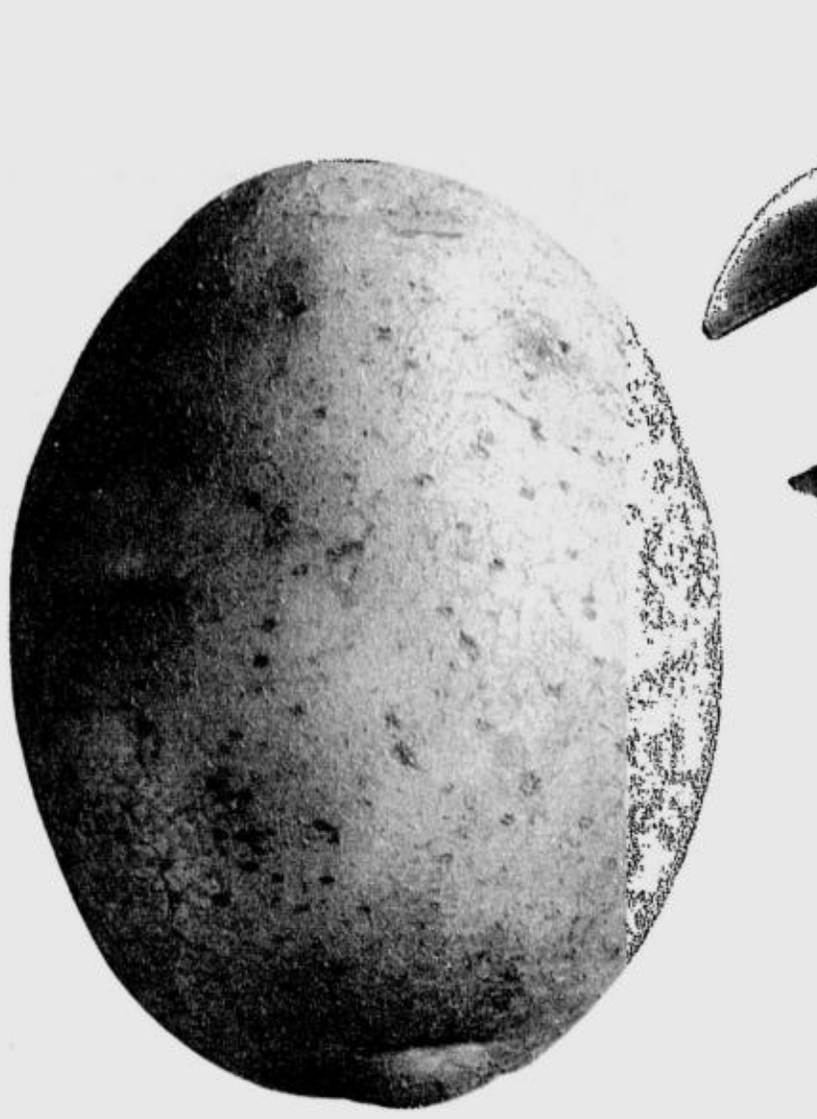
INQUIRER

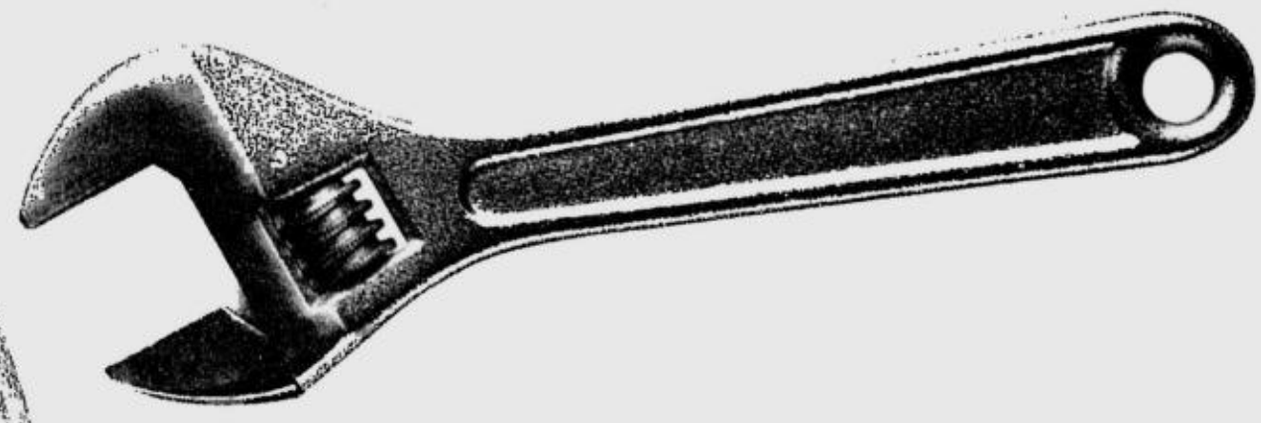
JOB Market

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2005
Philippine Copyright 1995
3 SECTIONS

JOB Market is exclusively for job advertisements.
This special section comes FREE with your copy of the
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
published every Sunday and distributed in key cities
RATES (E-VAT exclusive)
P230 per column centimeter every Sunday
DEADLINES
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Thursday 12:00 noon

THIRD SECTION OF JOBMARKET
PEOPLE AT WORK
ON PAGES
2, 4 & 5





To suceed in life, you need the right tools.

At Convergys, we'll invest more time and money in helping you grow. So you'll have the tools, know-how and confidence to enjoy an outstanding career in one of the world's fastest growing and most admired companies.

CONVERGYS
Outthinking Outdoing

Want to be the best? Give us a call, send us an email, or drop by one of our offices. We're looking for good communicators with a willingness to learn and a hunger to get to the top.

CUSTOMER CARE REPRESENTATIVE FOR INBOUND CUSTOMER SERVICE

- possesses proficient basic computer skills
- open to working odd hours
- courteous, attentive, and able to develop rapport
- dependable and has good work ethic
- detail-oriented
- fluent in English and highly conversational
- problem solver

CUSTOMER CARE REPRESENTATIVE FOR INBOUND CUSTOMER SERVICE WITH UPSELLING

- ability to identify customer needs
- ability to learn and apply procedures
- comfortable with sales
- detail-oriented

CUSTOMER CARE REPRESENTATIVE FOR FINANCIAL PROGRAM

- ability to discover customer needs
- preferably took a business-related course in college
- banking experience is an advantage
- detail-oriented
- possesses good analytical skills

CUSTOMER CARE REPRESENTATIVE FOR OUTBOUND CUSTOMER SERVICE

- preferably with 6 months call center/ telemarketing experience, but not required
- customer service that requires upselling (after sales follow up calls)
- ability to establish good rapport
- above average communication skills

TECHNICAL CUSTOMER CARE REPRESENTATIVE

- possesses proficient basic computer skills
- open to working odd hours
- courteous, attentive, and able to develop good rapport
- dependable and has good work ethic
- detail-oriented
- fluent in English and highly conversational
- knowledgeable in DSL, internet, and networking

TEAM LEADER

- at least 1 year previous experience as a supervisor/team leader
- bachelor's degree in a related field
- call center/customer service background is preferred
- strong ability to maximize performance
- willing to be assigned in any location

OPERATIONS MANAGER

- at least 2 years supervisory experience in managing the performance of others in a call center or multinational company
- can communicate with all levels of management
- experience in managing functional work groups
- willing to be assigned to any location

RECRUITMENT OFFICER

- at least 3 years of Recruitment Supervisory Experience
- preferably with call center experience in an outbound setting

RECRUITMENT SPECIALIST

- at least 1 year solid experience doing recruitment work

EMPLOYEE RELATIONS SPECIALIST

- 2-3 years relevant experience in events management in a corporate or medium to large-scale setting background in internal communications (newsletter, intranet, publishing, etc)
- with experience in managing functional groups (school org, community/professional organizations) with HR experience in other functions is a plus

We'll give you a cash bonus to welcome you on board and we've now extended this offer until the end of December.

All applicants are required to bring a copy of their resume and a 2x2 ID photo.

For customer care vacancies, please pay us a visit, call 8577760 or email your resume to philippinesrecruitment@convergys.com
For technical customer care positions, call 6318230 or email your resume to hro@teledevelopment.com

Ortigas Office
24th Floor, Robinson's Equitable Tower
#4 ADB Avenue Ortigas Center
Pasig City
(02)857-7688
(02)857-7678

Commonwealth Office
Diliman Commercial Center
#46 Don Mariano Marcos Avenue,
Diliman Quezon City
(02)756-7088
(02)756-7078

Makati Office
8th Floor, Tower 2, The Enterprise
Center Ayala Avenue
Makati City
(02)857-7788
(02)857-7778

U-Belt Office
Level 1, St. Thomas Square
1150 España Boulevard cor.
Padre Campa St.Sampaloc, Manila
(02)735-2006

Cebu Office
R. Arcenas Street, Arcenas Estate
Banawa Hills
Cebu City
(032)416-5810

Alabang Office
Block 44, Northgate Cyberzone
Muntinlupa City
(02)758-1588

E-mail: peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph.

Editor Raul O. Marcelo
Contributing Editor Regina Galang Reyes

Text us your feedback: Inquirer paw name/city/message. Send to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

A father's faith enables son to achieve success

BALBIERAN

By Raissa Claire Rivera
Contributor

CAREER TALES

SOUTHRIDGE. THE UNIVERsity of Asia and the Pacific. These are known as schools for the upper classes. Certainly not institutions where you are likely to find the children of a factory worker.

But those were precisely the institutions attended by Ronilo Balbieran, whose father barely passed high school and left his indigent family's farm to work at the San Miguel's bottling factory for minimum wage. Balbieran's early years were marked by poverty as well. How he broke the cycle of poverty, going from studying at public school to attending exclusive schools to actually teaching at the University of Asia and the Pacific (UA&P) is an inspiring story of a father's faith in God and in his own children.

Humble background

As a full-time UA&P faculty member, Balbieran teaches economics subjects. He is also required to do administrative work so he coordinates events for economic briefings and manage publications, among other things.

Seeing him in a polo shirt and a tie like most of the men in the school and in the business district of Ortigas, it's hard to believe that this economist grew up living hand to mouth. "Usually *walang pera, at kung walang pera, walang pagkain* (no money, and because of that no food)," he recalls.

But Balbieran was much better off than his father, an eldest son like him who had to go fishing and do farm work to feed the family, often missing school as a result. In fact, he only passed "because my grandmother always gave the teachers fish *tapos nakikiusap lang*(then, pleaded with them) ...the teachers of my father were all her friends." At 18, Balbieran's father went to work in Muntinlupa as a night-shift employee molding San Miguel beer bottles. When he met and married Balbieran's mother, he also sold *balut* that his wife prepared to coworkers. He and his wife also had a "sidecar retail *sari-sari* store business," which involved repacking goods bought wholesale from Divisoria and going about in a pedicab to sell them to *sari-sari* stores.

Pedicab conversations

Balbieran, born a year after his parents' marriage, remembers being brought in the same pedicab to his public school, starting when he began kindergarten. "Before going to *sari-sari* stores, my father would bring me to school in the pedicab. And he always had this pep talk... *"O, anak, mag-aral ka ng mabuti, ha? Kasi, kung mag-aral ka ng mabuti, papasok ka sa pinakamahal na high school sa buong Pilipinas* (Study hard. If you do, you will get into the most expensive high school in the Philippines)." Though somewhat skeptical that his father could manage to send him to such a school, Balbieran followed his father's advice: *"Titigan mo, pakinggan mo, tanungan mo 'yung titser* (Look at, listen to and ask questions of your teacher).

His father was also fond of quoting to him James 1 5:21: "If any of you wants knowledge, let him ask from God and he will receive it." Such was his faith in God that he asserted that God would provide them anything they asked for and worked for. In fact, it was when they were struggling the most to make ends meet that he would encourage his family to visualize a new goal—acquiring a tricycle, for instance. Balbieran laughs at a memory of his dad pretending their pedicab was a tricycle, making sounds of a motor running like a child playing a game of make-believe. It embarrassed him and his sister who were then riding in the sidecar, but not long after, they did have a tricycle to ride in. And so it was with three *sari-sari* stores (which were later replaced with junk shops) and a truck that their family acquired while they were growing up.

In his last year of elementary education, Balbieran took a high school entrance exam that was given by a school he'd never heard of to the boys at their school. He was one of the three to top the exam and was accepted on full scholarship.T he school was Southridge, the country's most expensive exclusive boys' school at that time.

"See, you only have to believe," Balbieran's father told him.

"Pa, your faith is enough for me," was Balbieran's jovial reply.

When Balbieran graduated from grade school as salutatorian, the proud father flung his son's six medals in the air with

A FATHER'S/P.4★★★

'I am losing enthusiasm at work!'

By Tita Datu Puangco

ADVICE FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

I AM TURNING 31 YEARS old in January. I occupy today an assistant manager position in a universal bank. I think careerwise, this is good progress for a person like me. The challenges at work are plentiful, but I find myself losing enthusiasm with my work. I completed last year my master's in business at a prestigious university. I have always been an achiever and now I feel myself slowly drifting in direction.

I have tried getting to the roots of what afflicts me. This is embarrassing and difficult to admit but could it be the fact that at my age, I am still single and unattached? I don't have the motivation to work, what for? When I was younger I always dreamt of having a family and children. After all, I come from a happy family. Please tell me how I can motivate myself to focus and do my work well.

Some friends have suggested I go to a global website and post my letter that will allow me to explore getting to know guys over the Internet. Is this safe? I come from a family with solid, spiritual values. Please share me your thoughts.

Single Lady

You mentioned two problems in your letter. First, is losing enthusiasm at work. Second, is your inability to build a family because you have not found the proper man. Or the man meant for you has not found you. The second problem may be the reason for your lack of enthusiasm at work.

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

Enthusiasm can be generated if you discover your life's purpose. One way of discovering this purpose is to view your work as service to clients. Put your heart into your work, forget yourself and joy and enthusiasm will start to envelope your heart.

Last week, I chanced on the book of Norman Vincent Peale, entitled, "Enthusiasm Makes the Difference." He defined enthusiasm as "the dynamic motivator that keeps one persistently working toward his goal."

'I AM/P.5★★★

Hurt boss hinders instructor's advancement

ASK YOUR CAREER COUNSELOR
Josie O. Santamaria

I'M A COLLEGE INSTRUCTOR, teaching in one of the institutions in the university belt in Manila. I have been in this academic level for eight years now while my batchmates had been promoted to assistant professor or even to associate professor. I know my subject matter and can communicate it effectively to my students. I get above average ratings in the course evaluation by my students and in the peer evaluation by my colleagues. I have an MA degree in my field. I've been attending seminars in my field of specialization to keep up with my professional growth, and do research in my field. These are all requirements for promotion.

The source of my frustration is our department head who obviously doesn't like me. I made a mistake of telling our Dean about the short hours she spent as an administrator. She would put in only about one to two hours of work daily. The reason for this is that she has also a business on the side and this interfered with the quantity and quality of hours she put in for work. When students or faculty wanted to see her, she very often was not available in her office, physically and even mentally.

As a result of the feedback I had given to our Dean, the latter called her attention to her shortcomings. She now renders the minimum required number of hours as administrator. But she has taken it against me for telling on her. Some of my peers had also been talking against her behind her back but they didn't have the courage to bring the matter to our Dean. Her low evaluation of me shows her vindictiveness; she has not submitted my name for promotion in academic rank. She also does not talk to me, ignores my presence at department meetings, and downplays my inputs during these meetings.

I don't know what to do. I had already gone to our Dean who told me to take up the matter of my promotion with our department head. I know I have to see her but I hesitate to do so because I feel discouraged. I don't know how to go about it. Please help me!

Ms Instructor

I have always maintained that one's boss is his or her No. 1 customer who must be pleased according to professional standards. In your case, both your students and your superior are your top customers. That she had been remiss in her administrative role did not justify your going "over her head" and going directly to her own boss to report her deficiency. She was justifiably hurt by this. She is now taking you to task by ignoring you and, worse, by not recommending you for promotion.

What options are there for you? One, ignore her and just continue to do a good job of teaching and hope that she will eventually see your value and recommend you for promotion. Two, continue to talk about her to the Dean and to your peers and to others. Three, take the risk and talk to her.

The first option may not give you the desired positive results. The second option will all the more hurt and anger her and widen the rift between the two of you. I suggest you take the third option. However, in taking this option, you need to plan what you will do and say. As in any plan, you must have a

HURT/P.4★★★

Mental blocks to innovating 'brand you'

By Regina Galang Reyes
People at Work editor

(Part IV)

HERE ARE SOME MORE mental blocks to innovating "brand you:"

1. **"I am a homebody, I am afraid to go out and talk to people."** (*Pambahay lang ang 'beauty' ko!*)

He grew up with a terrible feeling of inferiority. His father was a brilliant lawyer; his mother worked abroad. He earned a college degree in Computer Science from a well-known school. While his grades were average, he had a knack for assembling and repairing computers and was proficient with a lot of software not taught in college. He loved learning new programs and tinkering with computers. One would have expected him to have landed a good job soon after graduation. But he had low self-confidence; he did not want to go out of the four walls of his home to look for a job. He preferred submitting his resumés through the Internet. Despite prodding from his well-meaning mother, he remains jobless two years after graduation. His mental block prevented him from seizing the opportunities that could so easily be his for the taking had he taken the pains to go out and actually talk to people.

5. **"I need a foolproof plan to succeed."**

Sigurista was his middle name. This executive never went into anything unless he was a hundred percent sure that he would succeed. But when can anyone be a hundred percent certain of success? As a result, he never went out of his mold of being a conservative level-headed executive. He stayed on at his present company, well-rewarded but many of his more risk taking colleagues left to put up their own firms or head growing companies.

6. **"I have learned everything that needs to be learned. I've been there, done that, already attended so many training programs." (*Mas marunong pa ako sa* trainer!)**

This participant told the trainer at the start of the training program that she had already attended many management training programs and had many reservations attending another one. She thought that she had already learned all there was to learn about management. After three days of games and sharing with other participants, she found out that she could look at the theories and principles she had learned with new eyes and even learned a new thing or two about management.

7. **"I am so successful now; I don't need to change whatever I am doing." (*Kung hindi naman sira, baka aayusin? Okay na ako ngayon!*)**

This sales executive was undoubtedly successful. At the helm of the sales division for many years, he had exceeded his sales quotas year after year. He was so successful, he refused to consider any other new sales strategy. Meanwhile, like rats nibbling at his cheese, his competitors were busy introducing new sales promotions and slowly chipping away his market share. One day, this sales executive would find his sales down and ask, "Who moved my cheese?"

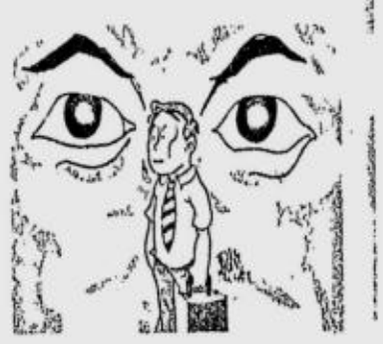
These are some of the mental blocks that prevent personal change. There are many more hidden in our minds. You can recognize them when they start holding you back from trying out something new. When you become aware of these blocks, like ice exposed to sunlight, they will melt away and leave you a clear path to innovating "brand you."

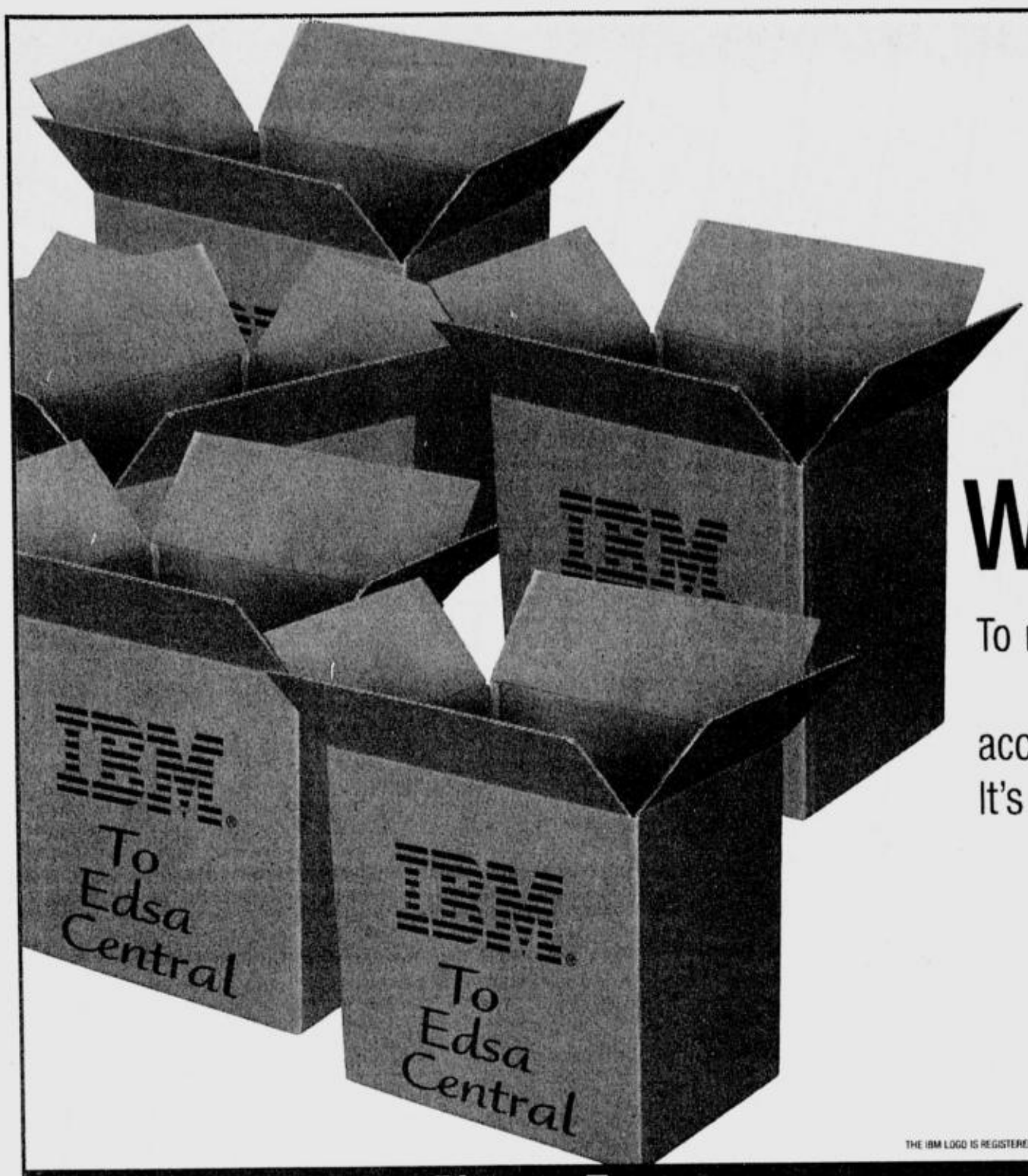
(For copies of previous articles in this series, send feedback to rreyes@inquirer.com.ph.*)*

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

More Articles

Reflections for the Working Soul
p.5★★★





IBM

We're Growing!

To reach out to more people, we're opening our recruitment and training center in a very accessible location – the **EDSA Central Pavilion**. It's a great time to join IBM Daksh, a brand you can wear more proudly than others!

THE IBM LOGO IS REGISTERED TRADEMARK OF INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MACHINES CORPORATION IN THE UNITED STATES AND/OR OTHER COUNTRIES. ©2005 IBM CORPORATION. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Be part of the **Pioneer Team** for our new travel account. Grab the opportunity now and start on December 17

IBM DAKSH BUSINESS PROCESS SERVICES PHILIPPINES INC.

Now hiring young, ambitious graduates to fortify the newest IBM network in Southeast Asia!

Customer Care Specialists for Fortune 500 Companies

- Telecommunications (Voice Support)
- Travel (Voice Support)
- Consumer Manufacturing Co. (Voice/Email Support) - HR Functions (Speaks Thai)
- Australian Query Management Account

Qualifications:

- Graduate of any Bachelor's degree
- Must possess excellent oral and written English communication skills
- Call center experience is an advantage
- Proficient in the use of computers and various applications
- Willing to work in a fast-paced, dynamic and schedule-shifting environment

Support & Leadership Posts

- Operations Manager
- Team Leaders
- Workforce Managers
- Workforce Specialists
- Quality Manager - Quality Management Systems
- Quality Assurance Specialists
- Quality Consultant (speaks Thai)
- Deputy Manager - Sourcing
- Data Analyst
- IT Operations Managers
- IT Helpdesk Manager
- Security & Policies Manager
- Data Network Specialists
- Voice Network Specialists
- Systems Administrators
- Helpdesk Technical Support
- HR Manager
- Implementation Manager

Call center experience is a must for support and leadership posts.

Our Recruitment Center is moving to EDSA Central by mid-December.
In the meantime, catch us at:

17/F Equitable PCI Tower, Paseo de Roxas Avenue, Makati City
November 29 - December 2 (9 AM - 8 PM)*
December 3 (9 AM - 6 PM)**

Call our Recruitment Hotline:
840-6020
or email your resume to:
applications@daksh.com.ph

FT
FINANCIAL TIMES

The Financial Times, one of the world's top sources of business news and information, urgently requires additional staff for its Manila accounts department. The ideal candidates should meet the criteria enumerated below and must be able to start as soon as possible. Attractive remuneration package awaits those who will be hired.

CREDIT & COLLECTION SUPPORT STAFF

- Accountancy graduate
- At least two years experience in credit and collection, debt analysis, billing/invoicing and general accounts processes
- Previous experience working for a multinational company
- Excellent command of both oral and written English
- Proficient in MS Office and automated accounts packages
- Highly organized, self-motivated and able to work independently
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- Willing and able to work on variable shifts
- Experience in customer service or subscription management an advantage

Interested applicants should post their detailed resume, cover letter and most recent photograph to **The HR and Administration Manager** at the address below not later than December 2, 2005:

Financial Times Philippines
42nd Floor, Philamlife Tower,
8767 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City
Visit our website www.ft.com

World Vision Development Foundation – Philippines

World Vision

World Vision Development Foundation is a Christian, non-profit, humanitarian organization, committed to the holistic transformational development, relief and rehabilitation, working for the well being of people, especially children, throughout the Philippines. World Vision Development Foundation works in partnership with World Vision International consisting of over 100 offices around the world. We are looking for a Christian professional whose faith and values match our mission with the poor. If you're ready to see how you can make an impact with your professional experience and talent as:

CORPORATE PLANNING COORDINATOR

The purpose of the position is to provide leadership for strategy development and implementation to maximize impact for children and the poorest of the poor in covered areas; and to support leadership on a journey of transformation through installation of a holistic strategic planning system.

The candidate must likely to have:

- A University/College degree or equivalent experience required; Master's degree preferred in Organizational Development, Economics, Business Administration, Public Administration or related field
- At least 5 years of broad and deep experience in several functions such as cross functional management, corporate operations leadership and strategic corporate planning.
- A strength in business and organizational development, research, and facilitation of group processes.
- An ability to perform strategic business planning which include among others the setting of organizational objectives, competitive analysis, and strategy development.
- A knowledge on variety of strategic principles, topics and processes and the ability to apply them based on current and long term needs.
- Willingness to travel across the country.

SOCIAL WORK OFFICER (ADP COORDINATOR)

- A graduate of Social Work (preferably licensed), Community Development or any Social Science courses
- At least 3 years of extensive experience in the following areas: project management, community development, child sponsorship, land and housing, etc.
- Must possess leadership, communication, facilitating and networking skills
- Must be willing to be based in the province
- 25-35 years of age

(2) AUDITOR

- A graduate of B.S. Accountancy, must be a CPA
- With at least three years of relevant experience
- Knowledgeable in financial systems, internal financial controls and procedures
- Ability to conduct oral and written presentation of audit results
- Computer literate
- Must be willing to travel frequently across the country
- 25-35 years of age

All positions must have a strong Christian commitment as evidenced by life and character and is open to ecumenical orientation. Qualified candidates may send their letter of application and comprehensive resume' with picture detailing work history to: theresa_ramos@wvi.org or write to WORLD VISION DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, c/o Human Resources Department (Attn: Tere Ramos), 883 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City, 1104

---

comglascoAG
COMGLASCO AGUILA GLASS CORPORATION

A leading distribution and retailing company with branches nationwide needs:

FINANCIAL/MANAGEMENT AUDITOR

Candidate must possess a degree in Accountancy;
Not more than 35 years old; With an extensive experience and knowledge in financial and management audit practices in a retail, trade or distribution set-up;Computer literate and knowledgeable with various accounting softwares;
Willing to accept field assignments and can work with minimal supervision.

Applicants are encouraged to apply personally with their comprehensive resume, Transcript of Records and 2x2 picture to:
5th Flr, 111 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City
or call : Tel Nos. 894-3823 loc. 148/137 Mobile No. 09178348798
Email: hr@comglasco.com
Look for Raquel Tariga or Des Valencia

SALES REPRESENTATIVES

Male/Female, 20-35 years old
Good writing & communication skills
College graduate, Computer literate
With 1 year of sales experience
Salary, plus commission

Submit resumé with a 2x2 picture to:
Unit 2206 Prestige Tower, Emerald Ave.,
Ortigas Center, Pasig City

FortMED
MEDICAL CLINICS

For Immediate Hiring

STAFF NURSES

- Registered Nurse w/ at least 1 year experience;
- Good oral and written communication skills;
- Ability to work with flexible schedule
- Willing to be assigned to corporate clients within Metro Manila

Submit resumé to:
Human Resources Department
Fortmed Medical Clinics
3F Equitable Bank Bldg., Paseo de Roxas cor.
Sen Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City, Tel. No. 897-9111
or send it thru e-mail at **hrd@fortmed.com.ph**

JOB Market

OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS BUT ONCE.

Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

A father's faith enables son to achieve success

From page 2★★★

joy.

Chance of a lifetime

When asked why he chose to go into economics, Bal-bieran's first answer is, "I don't know."

He hadn't even planned to study at UA&P. In his last year of high school, he had decided to become a civil engineer and was hoping to be accepted in the College of Engineering of the University of Santo Tomas (UST). Then a letter arrived from UA&P, offering him a full scholarship. Overwhelmed by the enormous value of the tuition fee waived for him—P65,000—his parents urged him to accept rather than wait for the results of the UST exam, which were to come out the day after the deadline for his reply to UA&P.

So he enrolled in UA&P's School of Management and, knowing the school was known for its Industrial Economics Program (IEP), chose that as his major "without any idea of what was in it for me." He was not really particular about his course of study at that time. He was more interested in theater then, and acted in plays as a member of the University's theater organization.

Despite all the rehearsals and performances, Balbieran kept his grades up, not only to hold on to his scholarship but also to debunk the stereotypical notion that the School of Management just accepted anybody. He was also determined to prove that, contrary to what most thought, one could do extracurricular activities and still excel in IEP. He didn't really excel, but he did all right and grew to like his course even if it wasn't the field of civil engineering. He liked working with numbers and appreciated the field's demand for accuracy and rigid discipline, which echoed his upbringing.

Better than his dreams

Now he has no regrets. He continues to be deeply immersed in math—one of his two great loves —in his teaching, research and consultancy work. His other great love, theater, he has found to be not so far removed from his teaching work. In fact, he says, "Actually teaching is easier than acting because in acting you have an audience that's hard to please: 'We paid for this, so make it good.' In teaching [the teacher says]: 'Better behave—I'll perform!'" His students have even noted that his classes are like theatrical performances, with all his jokes. Sometimes, he'll show a film instead of "performing," maintaining that any film can be related to economics since economics is related to everything.

It's not all fun and games in his classes, though. Balbieran tries to teach his students to be tough and responsible. Unlike him, most of them grew up in privileged homes and are unused to hardship. He shares stories of his youth to open their minds to the possibility that they can overcome any obstacle through determination and faith. He resists their whining over requirements just as his mother refused give in to his and his sisters' complaints as children, hoping to instill self-discipline in them as his parents did in him.

Balbieran's educational background actually suits him for many corporate jobs—from accounting to human resources to research. But he is content to stay where he is. He's never wanted to work in a corporation, preferring to have more freedom like his entrepreneurial father. "I never imagined myself to be a professor but now I enjoy teaching. I learned to appreciate economics and its relation to everything. I get to do work with my idols, the top people, CEOs, top economists, and I get to work with them as consultants for the government and corporations."

Though he never dreamed he would go into all this when he had just graduated from high school, much less when he was a kindergartener in his father's pedicab, Ronilo Balbieran now says of his work, "This is my dream job."

(E-mail the author at rais1724 @yahoo.com)

Hurt boss hinders instructor's advancement

From page 2★★★

goal. In this case, your goal in seeing her is for her to see you in a positive light and for you to understand her and see her viewpoint. To do this, you have to set aside your preconceived notions about her and open up to her by active listening.

I suggest the following plan of action:

1. Have your copy of summaries of student and peer evaluation.

2. Make an appointment to see her.

3. Prepare what you will say. Use an I-message feedback like: "I came to see you because I am very much bothered by my nonpromotion to assistant professor, which I believe I deserve." Listen to what she will tell you.

4. Apologize to her for having told the Dean about the number of hours she used to render. For your apology to be sincere, put yourself in her place. How would you feel if one of your subordinates would "go over your head" and complain about you to your boss? Don't say that some of your peers had also felt the same way. Don't bring other people into this issue.

For example, you can say, "I apologize, Ma'am, that I had gone to the Dean to tell her about the number of hours you used to spend in the office. I'm really sorry about this. I know I have hurt you." Don't give excuses for what you did. Listen to what she has to say.

5. Then ask: "What shall I do to be promoted to assistant professor?" Again, listen to her. If at this point, she mentions about student and peer evaluation, then you can quietly show her your copy of these summaries.

The important thing is for you to be conciliatory. Allow her to talk while you accept what she says. Accepting what she says as true for her is different from agreeing with her. Don't antagonize her further by refuting what she says. You can clarify but leave it at that. Make her feel you understand her by labeling her unexpressed feelings.

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

For example, if she says "The trouble with you is that you went ahead and gossiped about me behind my back to the Dean without telling me first."

You can empathize by saying: "You are angry with me because I went directly to the Dean rather than to you and you felt hurt that I didn't take the matter directly to you."

The general principle is that when your boss or peer does something wrong or fails to do certain things (i.e., commission or omission), and we are bothered about it, the right thing to do is to go directly to the person and give an I-message feedback.

If you don't have the courage to go directly to the person concerned, then you just have to endure the frustrating situation and hope your superior learns about it through another source. Telling on or about your boss to her boss is unprofessional.

Majority of us Filipinos are nonassertive. We keep our negative feelings to ourselves rather than express them openly to the person concerned. Worse, we tell others about the person. The latter is thus deprived of the opportunity to become aware of his or her negative behavior and to correct it.

The rule in communicating feedback is to identify your feelings for the person's negative behavior, and use the I-message in giving feedback. For example, "I felt disappointed, Ma'am, that on two occasions, I had wanted to talk to you in your office but you were not there. I wanted to consult you about an important matter." And tell this to her in private.

Admittedly giving an I-message feedback face-to-face with the person concerned is not easy to do but it is the right thing to do. It takes practice. Practice gives you self-confidence and enables you to learn the skill.

I wish you success in your effort to establish a positive and professional relationship with your superior. God bless you!

(Ms Santamaria is president of Career Systems, Inc. which she and her husband Jorge manage with daughter Desiree S. Urbi. Their company specializes in career development, leadership and management development programs, outplace ment counseling services, and consulting services in human resources development and organization development. Send feedback to carsys @careersystems.com.ph.*)*

You read it in the papers...
You heard it over the radio...
You saw it on television...

IT'S TRUE!
The U.S. will need 200,000 new teachers every year over the next ten years!

Learn how to Qualify to Teach in the U.S.

Coming to America

A Seminar For All Professionals Who Are Thinking Of Working In The U.S.

- No teaching experience required
- No need to go back to school
- All you need is a bachelor's degree
- Can be done in 6-12 months

Speaker: Mr. Norman Gibbs

He is the founder and CEO of E-WorldStaffing.com of USA. In the last 10 years, he has helped more than 500 Filipino nurses, physical therapists, IT and educators to work legally in the U.S. with salaries ranging from $37,000 to $65,000 per year.

Don't miss this event!
It could be the opportunity you've been waiting for!

Seminar Details:
Date: December 3, 2005 (Saturday)
Time: 9:00 am
Venue: Meralco Theater, Ortigas Ave., cor Meralco Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City

Last Seminar for the Year!

Seminar Fee:
Php 795.00
Early bird rate is P495
Until Nov. 30 only

CALL US NOW TO RESERVE A SEAT
LIMITED SEATS ONLY (FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE)
914-7000 FOR PROVINCIAL SEMINARS, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE
www.LiveandEarnintheUSA.com
E-World Resource Centers, Inc.
2106 Prestige Tower, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City

PRISM
PRIVATE SECTOR MOBILIZATION FOR FAMILY PLANNING

USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

The Private Sector Mobilization for Family Planning (PRISM) Project
Scope of Work

Grants Finance Officer

Background:

The PRISM Project supports USAID/Philippines' Strategic Objective 3, *Desired family size and improved health sustainably achieved*, focusing on three components: 1) increased workplace support for FP services and referrals, 2) establishment of viable, mass market brands of hormonal contraceptives, and 3) increased business value of FP among private practice providers.

The Grants Finance Officer will provide professional services on all aspects of the grants accounting and financial management. She/he processes accounting transactions according to the general principles of accounting and home office field accounting manuals. She/he must also follow the client's (USAID) and local government policies, procedures and regulations.

Specific Tasks

The Grants Finance Officer will be responsible for undertaking the following tasks and responsibilities in a professional manner:

General Tasks:

1. Ensure smooth and efficient processing of financial transactions related to PRISM grants program
2. Provide necessary assistance in beefing up the capacity of grantees in establishing accounting system for PRISM grant funds

Specific Tasks

Financial Management

1. Maintain bank balances up-to-date and reconcile accounts on a monthly basis.
2. Facilitate the timely request and release of grant funds from a letter of credit facility or from Chemonics Home Office
3. Process payment of approved grantee invoices (e.g prepare checks, review supporting documents for simplified and standard project grant payment) according to established procedure and in strict compliance with USAID guidelines
4. Attend to concerns and questions pertaining to grants financial management posed by home office accountants

Bookkeeping

1. Record grant transactions into the computerized accounting system on a daily basis record
2. Close accounting transactions on the 30th/31st of each month and send electronically the Quickbooks file to the home office on the same day. This is for grant funds requested thru a Chemonics reimbursement scheme.
3. If necessary, maintain and update accounting records for the letter of credit account.
4. Assist home office field accounting and project management staff in reconciling grants accounts.

Other Tasks:

1. Conduct periodic audit of grantee accounting records to determine adherence to USAID rules and regulations.
2. Determine soundness of grantee's financial management system during pre-award responsibility determination and provide necessary advice to grantee on how to improve its accounting system.
3. Act as resource person during grant orientations to discuss the PRISM guidelines for grant reimbursement or cash advance mechanism.
4. May participate in the review of grantees' cost proposal in order to understand and be fully aware of cost allowability.
5. Verify and process expense reports generated by grants project staff.
6. Undertake other relevant and appropriate tasks which maybe assigned by the Senior Finance Manager or Senior Grants Manager

Supervision:

The Grants Finance Officer will report directly to Senior Finance and Administration Manager and the Senior Grants Manager. Both will be responsible for monitoring her output and work performance.

Qualifications:

1. Certified Public Accountant
2. Minimum of five years experience in accounting
3. Preferably worked with USAID-funded projects particularly on grants accounting
4. Hardworking, objective, and honest
5. Excellent in verbal and written communications
6. Computer literacy in word processing, spreadsheets, and accounting softwares

Interested applicants should e-mail their application letter and CV with at least 2 character references at jobs@prism.org.ph on or before 2nd of December 2005.

Your career might only be a click of the mouse away.

JOB Market ONLINE
VISIT US AT
www.jobmarketonline.com

A telemarketing Firm dealing with American clients is urgently need of:

TELEMARKETING REPRESENTATIVES

Qualifications:
- Graduate of 4 year course or applicants with related experience are encouraged to apply
- Excellent communication skills
- Willing to work on shifting schedule, graveyard shift (full time or part time basis)
- Results oriented
- Experience in an international call center is an advantage preferably outbound telemarketing

Email your CV to: expert2005_recruitment@yahoo.com not later than November 28, 2005. Previous applicants need not apply.

INQUIRER CLASSIFIEDS

Branches are open to serve your Classified Ads requirements.

MANDALUYONG BRANCH
SM MEGAMALL
5TH LEVEL, BLDG B, EDSA
TEL. NO.: 635-0219 / 637-2008
Contact Persons: Joy, Arnold, Randy & Arnel

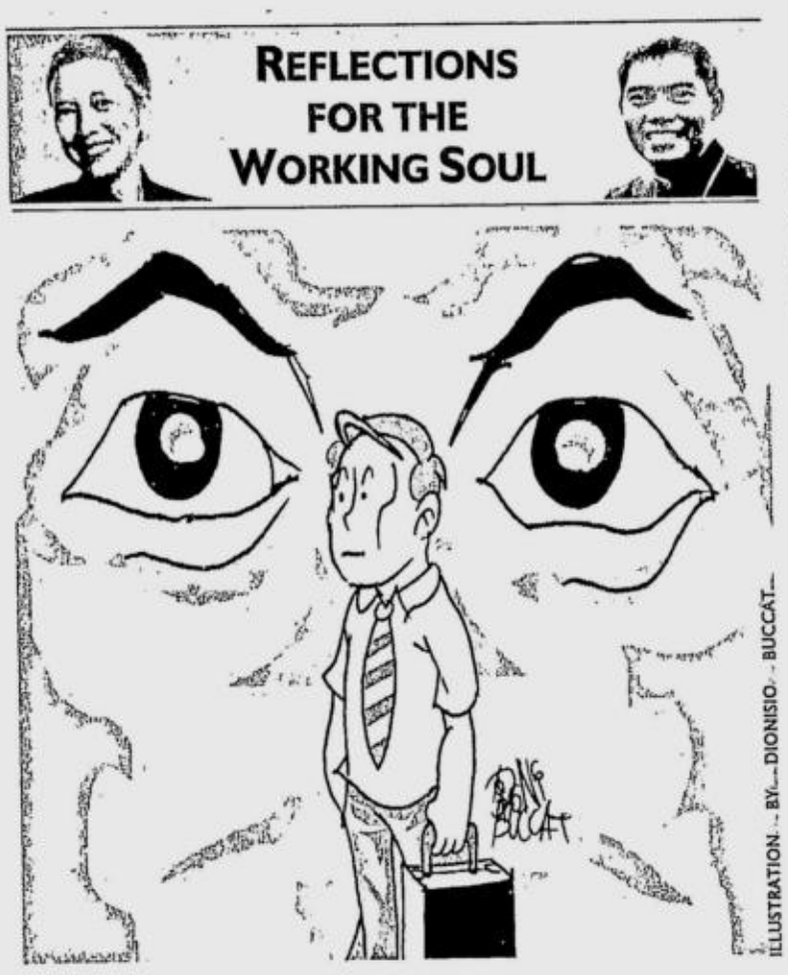
CUBAO BRANCH
801 G/F, ST. ANTHONY S BLDG.
AURORA BLVD COR OXFORD ST.,
CUBAO, QUEZON CITY
TEL. NO.: 912-9008 TO 11
Contact Persons: Aileen, Pat, Adel & Iris

Watchfulness is an attitude

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

WATCHFULNESS NOT ONLY AT WORK BUT IN ANYthing we do can never be overemphasized. We know we have to keep watch, to be alert and vigilant at all times, but we are not always successful at it, no matter how often we are reminded to be so. Part of the reason we fail is: distractions. And distractions at work are many. The cell phone, for example, is one—text messages coming in sporadically can destroy our focus. Chatter from pesky officemates is another; so are visitors who drop in without notice. Even well-meaning celebrations can be a distraction—a birthday celebrant coming in with a slice of cake has to be acknowledged, greeted and thanked, at least. Music from the next work station or cubicle can also prevent us from concentrating on our tasks. Pop-ups while we're researching and surfing the net are also irritating disruptions at work. We can't work in a vacuum; we need our senses to work but our very senses are under attack from these distractions. So what do we do?

Watchfulness is not just focusing on the task at hand, or being attentive on a task-to-task basis. Part of being watchful is nurturing in ourselves the attitude of watchfulness, and developing skills that will support this attitude so that it can help us concretely and effectively. For instance, devoting a few minutes each day to breathing exercises, observing the rhythm of our breathing as we inhale and exhale, can already significantly increase our ability to focus. As we become more proficient in this quieting down exercise, we will discover that we are not only getting better at focusing on a certain task but also becoming more creative in performing them. (*E-mail the author at* teresa_de_manila @yahoo.com)



Gospel: Mark 13:33-37

Watch, therefore; you do not know when the lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning.

Watchfulness in the job

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

WE FILIPINOS, SAD TO SAY, ARE NOT SO SAFETY-CONscious as we should be. I realized this during training and exposure in a company in Italy, where I observed that watchfulness in one's work is a fundamental habit that makes a worker succeed in his job. There I also learned that attention to details in the performance of one's task can never be overemphasized. For example, the operator needs to watch attentively for the sequence of operations of the machine he is working with. He likewise has to keep an eye on the safety devices, warning signals and other critical parts of the machine in order to prevent malfunction or total machine breakdown. I realized then that such habitual alertness and sensitivity to the minute aspects of one's work are necessary for the worker to have a harmonious relationship with his job—a happy and contented worker over a job excellently done.

Furthermore, I think that a watchful and happy worker will contribute to establishing a pleasant and satisfying work environment. Those who are accustomed to being attentive to little things in their tasks can easily learn to do also little acts of affection and care towards his coworkers, like greeting everyone, showing respect for the sensitivity or privacy of others, saying "thank you" to servers in the canteen or to the janitors, and many other small and insignificant acts of love for the others.

Still more, such vigilance in the job will lead the worker to reflect more deeply on Jesus' invitation to be watchful for a greater reason—the encounter with one's Creator in the moment one least expects. Then the tedious, monotonous and seemingly lifeless work, when performed with faith, reflection and prayer, will lead the worker to a living and loving experience with the Lord of work. (*E-mail the author at* mfvg@skyinet.net)

'I am losing enthusiasm at work!'

From page 2★★★

The advice he gives in his book can help. Here are some pointers. One is the "as if" principle. Act as if you already have the quality you desire. Imagine yourself "to be" and in time you will become what you desire provided you persevere. So imagine yourself as being excited and enthusiastic. It may be playacting at the beginning but soon you will feel your boredom lifting and enthusiasm coming in.

Second is the practice of "mental ventilation." He suggests the process of daily emptying of the mind at the end of the day to prevent unhealthy thoughts from taking roots in one's consciousness. This means reviewing mistakes, errors and frustrations, drawing lessons from them, lumping and dropping them and exhaling them out of your system. In my case, I try to face them squarely, taking in the suffering or pain and making an offering of it. This action turns the negative into positive. Then, I move on.

Third, tell yourself all the good news you know. In the morning, set the proper tone. Spend quiet time in meditation reading a spiritual piece, then mentally go over your day. Pray for every person you are scheduled to meet and pray for each one. Start your day with a positive outlook. One technique I have learned that helps me maintain a positive outlook the whole day is "living the present moment," not looking back at the regrets of the past or worrying too much about the future. In the moment, doing my work with perfection gives me a sense of fulfillment and satisfaction.

Now on the second issue, I suggest you pray and surrender yourself to God's will. A friend once shared the experience that when she started to relax and content herself with being single but striving to be a total person, one day, she met and married the right person at age 40. She likened it to a butterfly alighting on her shoulder as she stood still and enjoyed life a day at a time.

On proactively seeking to meet guys over the web, I think you alone can make this decision. I know ladies who found suitable husbands through the web and still others whose relationships failed. Personally, I take a conservative view. Marriage is a sacred sacrament and the most important decision a woman has to make in her lifetime. So, one has to exercise utmost prudence in making the decision to marry.

But if you go ahead and use the web site you mentioned, do manage the risks and keep a sensible head as you go through the process of carefully selecting the right persons and avoiding unstable characters. Give yourself time and don't plunge headlong into relationships. Then, constantly be in touch with your solid spiritual values.

May you regain your enthusiasm soon and fulfill your dreams.

(Ms Puangco is CEO of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting, a training and consulting company specializing in strategy management, leading change, human resource systems, leadership and enterprise training. For advice, e-mail advice@ancillaedc.com.ph *or call tel.. nos. 892-2895, 892-2896 and 892-2898)*

39 Ways to Close More Sales

November 29, 2005. 1:00pm-5:00pm. Holiday Inn Galleria

HOW MANY CLOSING TECHNIQUES DO YOUR SALESPEOPLE KNOW?

If they cannot name even a few, how can you expect them to close more sales?

Closing techniques are their ammunition in sales transactions. It is imperative for them to learn and internalize the 39 special closing techniques that the top producers use for them to produce more. Your company will only EARN MORE if your salespeople will CLOSE MORE.

Let them attend this high-impact workshop.

* The Psychology of Closing
* What Closing Really Is
* Your Thermometer in Closing
* Fundamental Closing Techniques
* A Cornucopia of Creative Closes
* Using Other Tools of Closing
* Closing More Sales
* More Closing Techniques

SEMINAR INVESTMENT

>>> EARLY BIRD RATE <<<
P 1,195 + VAT until November 22

>>> REGULAR RATE <<<
P 1,495 + VAT starting November 23

(complete with snacks, handouts and certificate)

CALL US NOW FOR INQUIRIES / RESERVATIONS
PORTERAND MILES, INC. Look for Mercy A. Espineli 638 -7719/20
Fax Number 6376890 Email:pmi@alfox.net Website:www.pmi.com.ph

TRAINING WORKS

La Salle MATRIX THINKING

La Salle Matrix Thinking™
-The Secret to Business Success
A Revolutionary New Way to See Your World and Build Your Business

8 December 2005 (1:00 pm to 4:30 pm)
Makati Shangri-La, Makati City

Roger La Salle is a challenging, dynamic, inspirational and sought-after speaker who talks from real life experiences. He has created and developed many businesses from start up. Roger works as a consultant in innovation, technology strategy and the commercialization of new technology.

A professional engineer, successful business entrepreneur and international expert on business innovation; Roger's highly acclaimed La Salle Matrix Thinking™ has been adopted by many Australian and international organizations to inspire new breakthrough business opportunities. Recent engagements include England, Ireland, Fiji, Singapore, New Zealand, USA, Indonesia and China.

Roger is the author of the books on Matrix Thinking™, and in 2004 was appointed to the Chair of Innovation at Queens University, Belfast, Ireland and is the director of a number of international companies. Roger is a panelist on the ABC "New Inventors" TV show.

Matrix Thinking™ is a practical tool that brings "structure" to creativity. It is directly applicable to your business situation, your products, processes and services. Matrix Thinking™ is not theoretical.

Matrix Thinking™ uses a unique combination of "seeds" and thinking "catalysts" to drive the thinking process. It's strength lies in the choice of "seeds" and "catalysts". These have been developed and tested over many years in organizations worldwide.

Matrix Thinking™ can be used for:
- Sales
- Marketing
- Product Development
- Business Development
- R & D

This interactive halfday workshop will show you how to apply Matrix Thinking™ to your business, inspire your team and identify breakthrough opportunities.

What You Will Cover
- Business Plans, the most common reason for failure
- The concept of the "value proposition"
- Understanding markets and market risk
- Innovation verses Invention
- Opportunity
- Workshops and applied innovation session(s)

La Salle Matrices Include:
- Product Innovation Matrix©
- Process Innovation Matrix©
- Services Innovation Matrix©
- Opportunity Matrix©

Php 5,000 / person VAT inclusive

For further information, call Jasmin Ruñez at telephone numbers 8451324/ 7566480 or e-mail jrunez@trainingworks-consulting.com.ph and/or Esperanza M. Jamantoc at telephone number 7511218 or e-mail Espie.Jamantoc@sunlay.com.ph

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

The country's leading newspaper is looking for:

CREDIT STAFF

Qualifications:
- College graduate with background in Finance or Accounting
- Preferably with office experience

Responsibilities:
- Assists the Credit Assistants in facilitating credit approval of all advertisements that includes ads through agencies, direct clients and others.

PERSONNEL ASSISTANT

Qualifications:
- College graduate preferably Psychology or a Behavioral Science course
- At least 1 year experience in benefits administration
- Familiar with labor standards and government-mandated benefits. Knows how to use office software. Interpersonal and Communication Skills, Social Skills, Report Writing Skills, Customer Service Skills
- Knowledge of first-aid

Responsibilities:
- Assist the ESDC Coordinator in facilitating the availment of benefits by the employees.
- Responsible for assisting in organizing recreational and social activities in order to promote good interpersonal relationships among employees.

DESK EDITORS

Qualifications:
- College graduate major in Journalism or any Social Sciences course
- Must have 3 years experience in newspaper Journalism
- With at least 1 year experience in editing and designing/ layouting pages

Responsibilities:
- Coordinates news gathering activities
- Edits stories and designs the layout of newspaper pages

PRE-PRESS SPECIALIST

Qualifications:
- College graduate preferably with background in Computer
- With solid layout and design skills set in a newspaper publishing environment
- Advanced knowledge in Photoshop, Illustrator, Freehand, Corel Draw, Pagemaker and Acrobat
- Understanding in color management systems
- Fluent in both Windows OS and Macintosh environments

Send your application letter and comprehensive resumé or e-mail to:

HR MANAGEMENT SERVICES HEAD
Philippine Daily Inquirer

Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo)
Corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City
E-mail: recruitment@inquirer.com.ph

More employment opportunities in today's JOB MARKET.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

JOB Market is exclusively for you
This special section comes FREE with your copy of the PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER published every Sunday and distributed in key cities
RATES (E-VAT exclusive)
₱250 per column centimeter every Sunday
DEADLINES
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Thursday 12:00 noon

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2005
www.jobmarketonline.com
Philippine Copyright 1995

JOB Market

Get a copy of JOBMARKET (3 Sections) on Sunday Issue of Inquirer

★ Where You Find The Best.

ZARA

With more than 800 stores in the most commercial streets in 58 countries, Zara sets the latest fashion trends for millions of people. We count on professionals like you to create and transmit the excitement that this extraordinary company possesses.

To cope with our major expansion, we are now recruiting for the new stores of our franchisee in the **Philippines**:

Retail Manager
Section Manager
Assistant Section Manager

We are looking for highly committed young professionals who adore fashion and thrive on the challenge of working in a high-energy business, who are willing to share our vision of creating a new concept in customer service.

They will be responsible for organising and managing stores and leading highly motivated teams. This requires a proven management experience at the point of sale with a leadership style that inspires motivation and enthusiasm. Our successful candidates will have excellent communications skills, fluent in English and have passion for customer service and products.

Human Resources Manager

Candidates should be between 26-35 years old and they will be responsible for staff recruitments, training & personal development, planning & controlling staffs working schedules. They will have to be hands-on person, will be required to spend 90% of his/her time in the stores and be in close contact with all the staffs. Previous experience in HR and knowledge of labor law will be big advantage. English proficiency is required.

Cashier Supervisor
Visual Merchandiser
Window Dresser

CV and covering letter should be sent, within 2 weeks from today, to:

STORES SPECIALISTS, INC.
HR Department
Ground Floor Midland Buendia Building
403 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue
Makati City 1200 Philippines
Tel.: (02) 898 02 46. Fax: (02) 895 07 42

Also, we are now recruiting for the new stores of our franchisee in the **Philippines**:

Sales Assistants
Cashiers

We are looking for candidates who have excellent communication skills, a positive attitude and love customer service.

CV and covering letter should be sent, within 2 weeks from today, to:

STORES SPECIALISTS, INC.
Personnel Department
Ground Floor Midland Buendia Building
403 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue
Makati City 1200 Philippines
Tel.: (02) 898 02 46. Fax: (02) 895 07 42

www.zara.com

INQUIRER COMICS Sunday

NOVEMBER 27, 2005

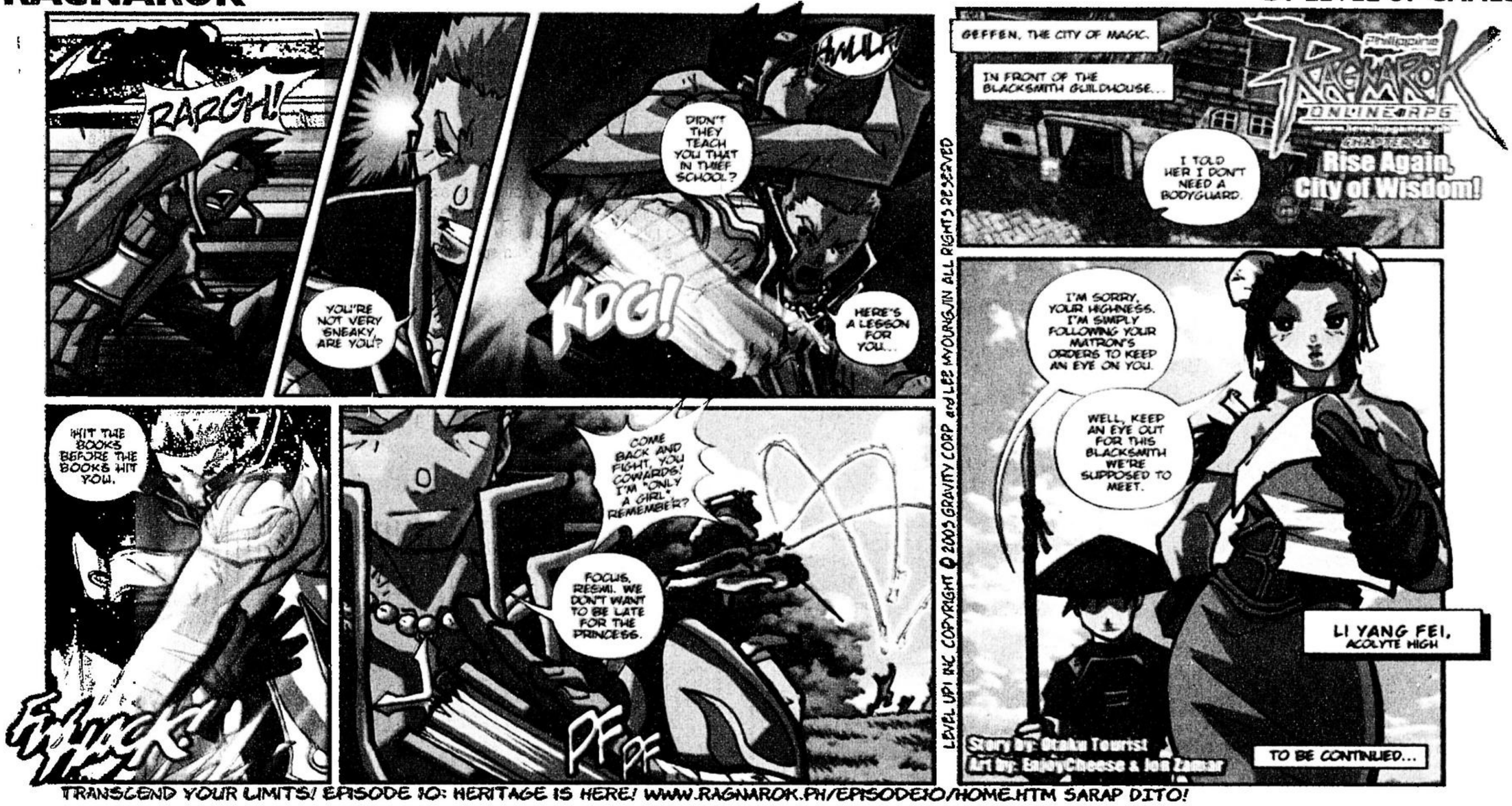
1

e-mail feedback: arts@inquirer.com.ph

sms feedback: inquirer life name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart)

RAGNAROK

BY LEVEL UP GAMES



TRANSCEND YOUR LIMITS! EPISODE 10: HERITAGE IS HERE! WWW.RAGNAROK.PH/EPISODE10/HOME.HTM SARAP DITO!

PUGAD BABOY

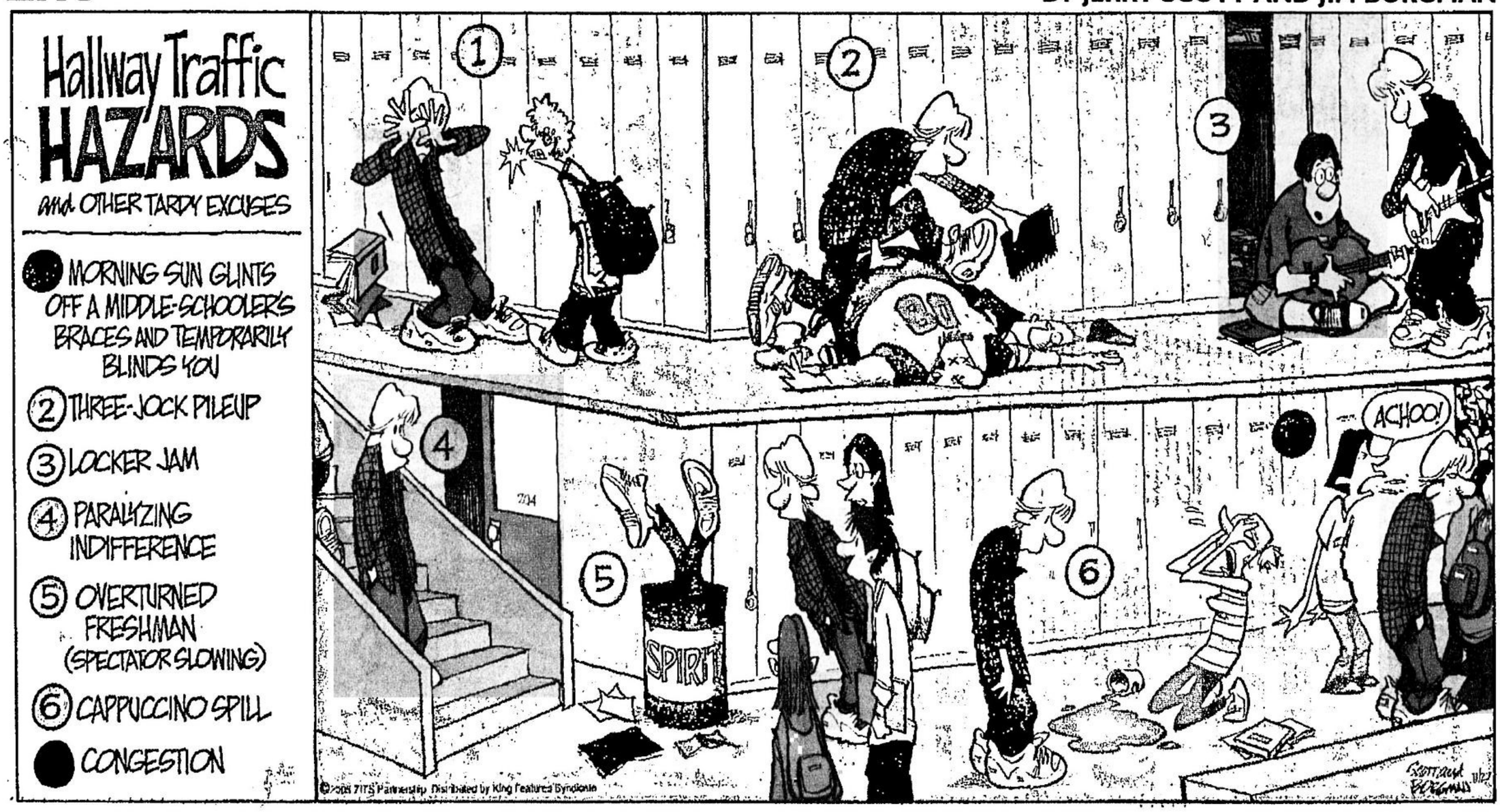
BY POL MEDINA JR.

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS

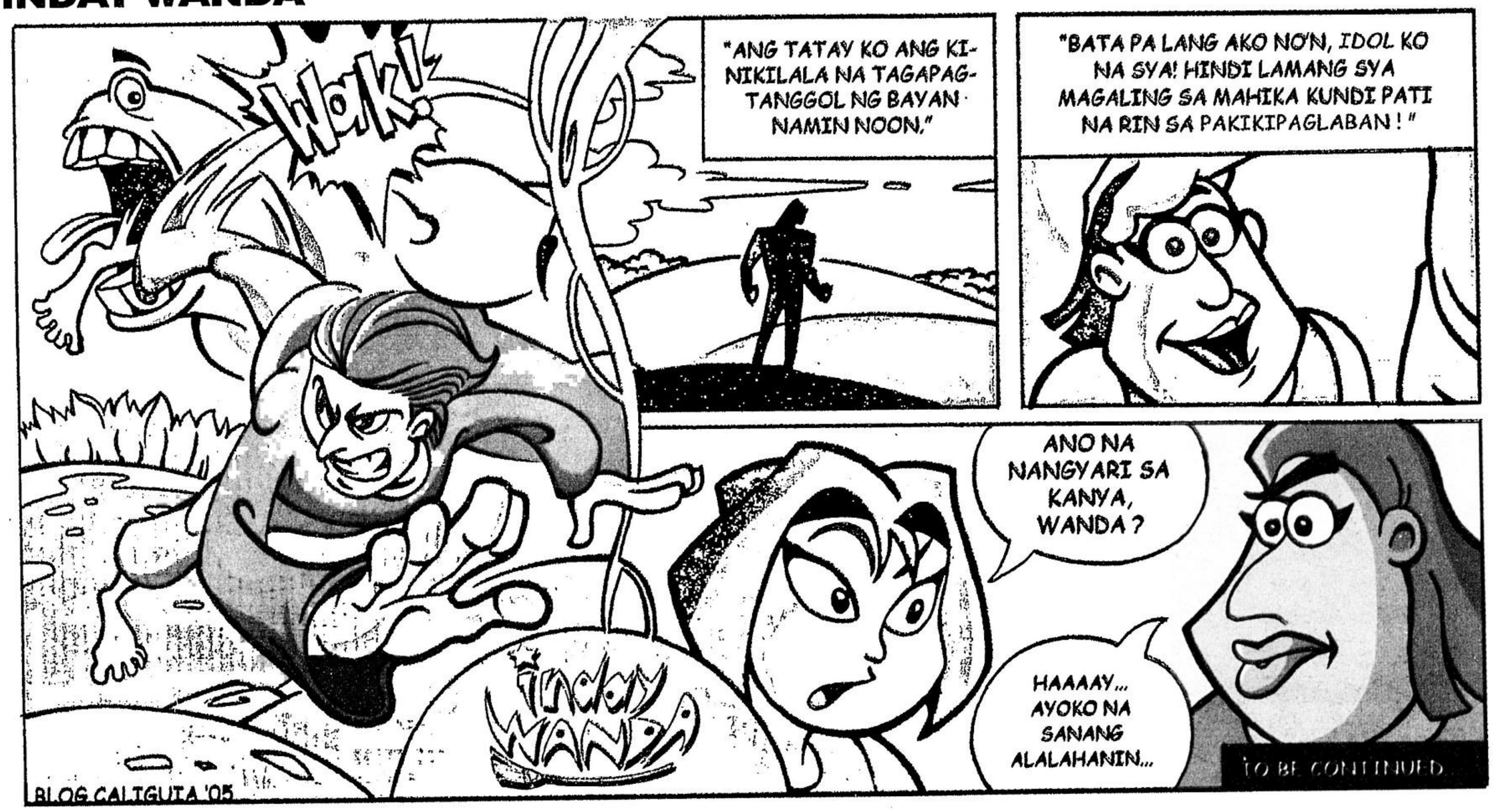
ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



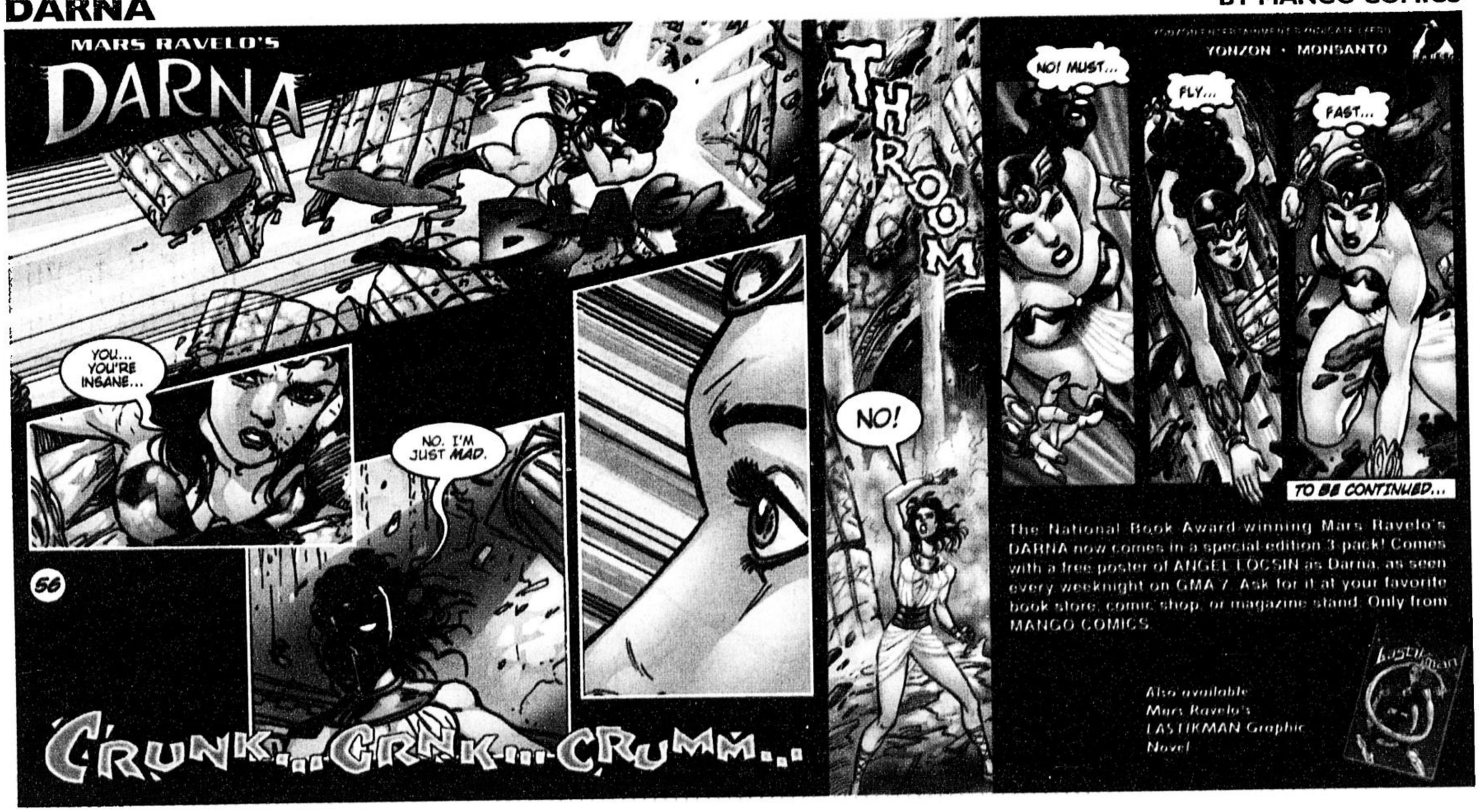
INDAY WANDA

BY BLOG CALIGUIA



DARNA

BY MANGO COMICS

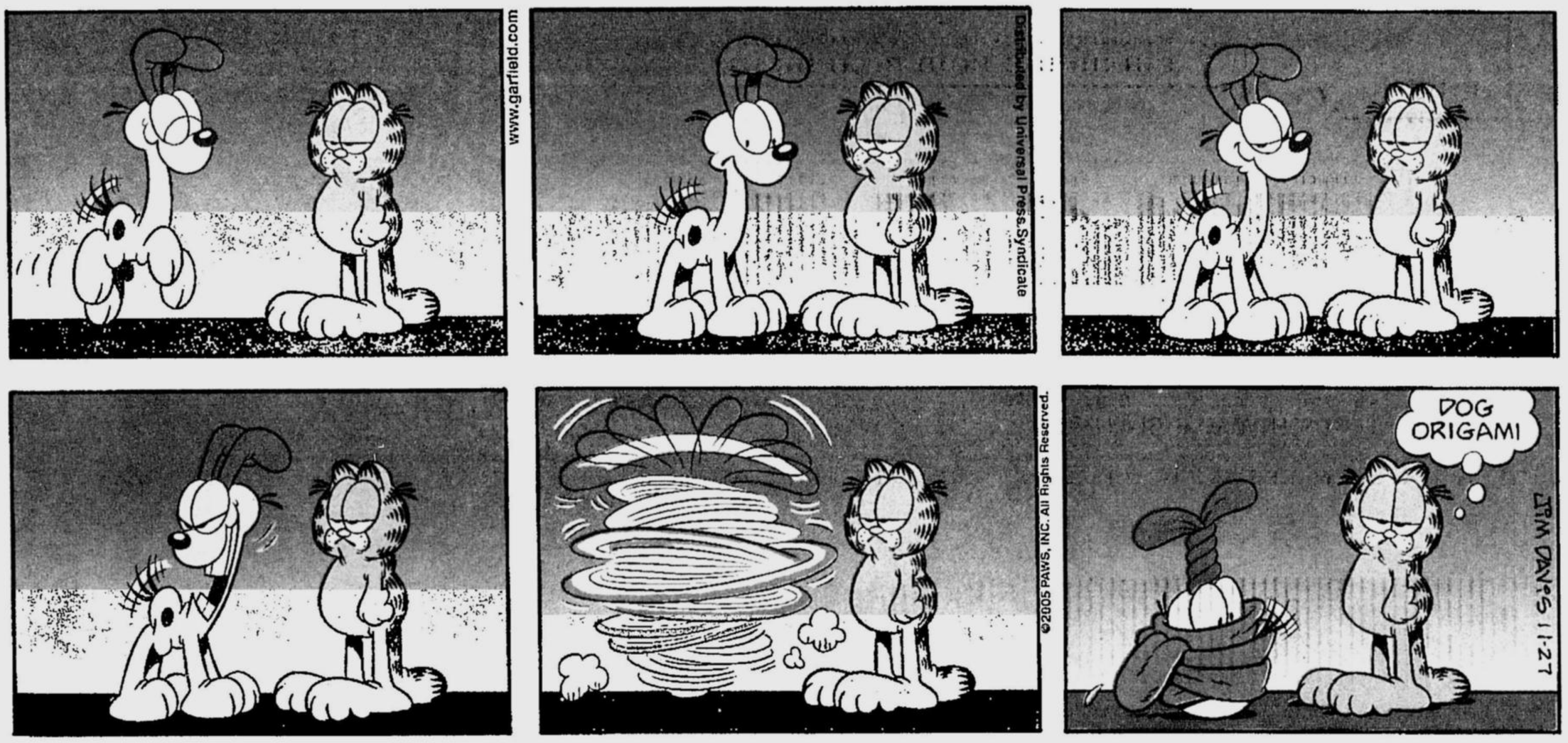


The National Book Award-winning Mars Ravelo's DARNA now comes in a special-edition 3-pack! Comes with a free poster of ANGEL LOCSIN as Darna, as seen every weeknight on GMA 7. Ask for it at your favorite book store, comic shop, or magazine stand. Only from MANGO COMICS.

Also available
Mars Ravelo's
LASTIKMAN Graphic
Novel

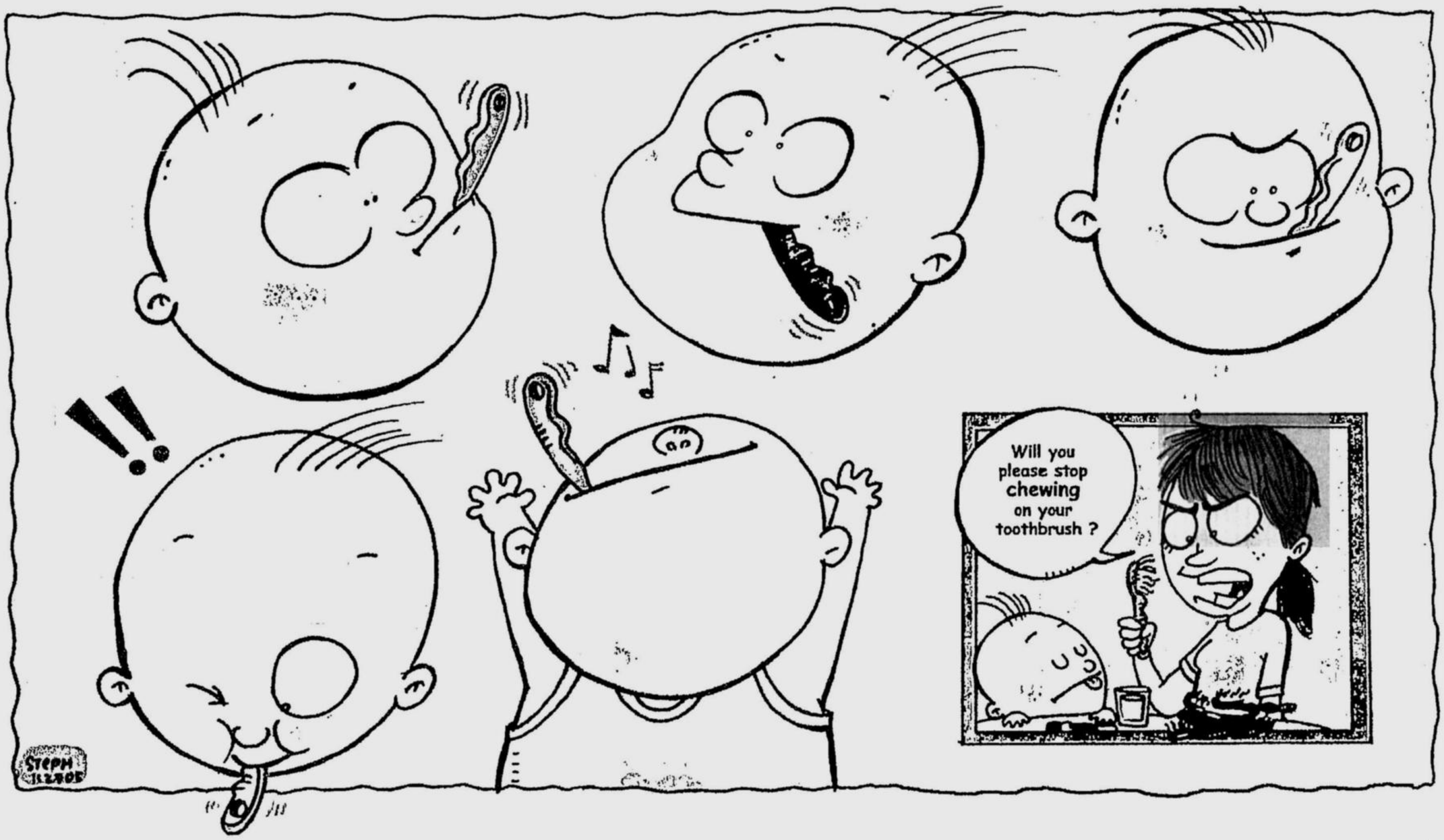
GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS



FULL HOUSE

BY STEPH BRAVO



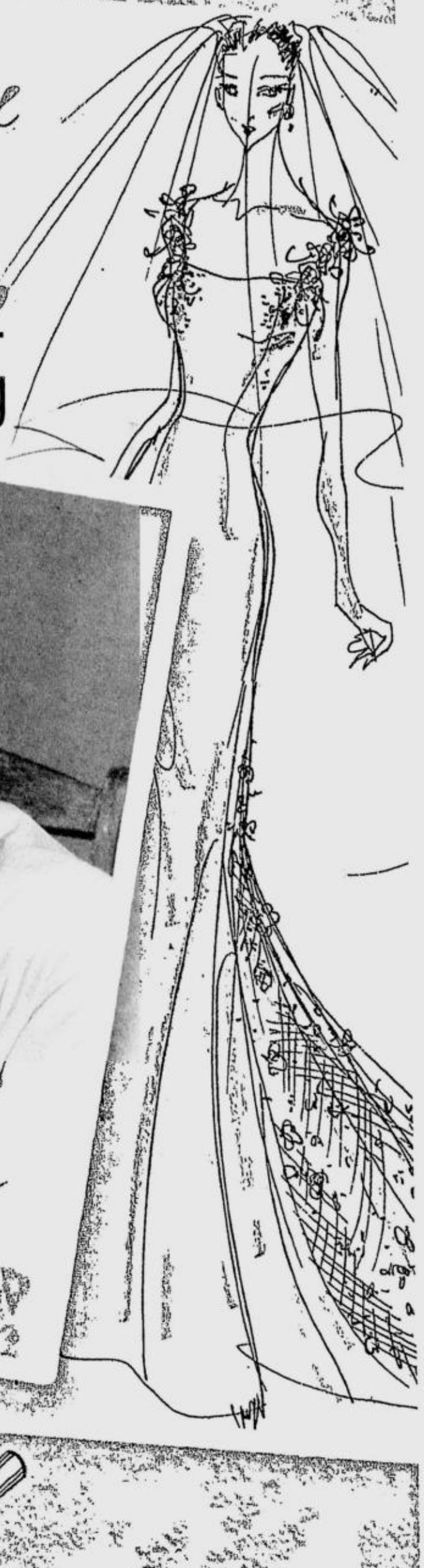
November 27, 2005

sunday INQUIRER magazine

GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE

AUGGIE CORDERO
From Unknown Backroom to Top Bridal Fitcher

He Learned His Craft—and Is Still Learning



by Larry Leviste
photograph by Romy Homillada
photo illustration by Marlone Rubio

He gave up his accounting books to create women's fashion. Today, thanks to a loving mother, a generous teacher, and plain hard work, this low-profile maestro is still whipping up dreams

I WAS the mid-'60s and Augusto Cordero, then a college freshman, was seriously contemplating changing his course. Although it could result in scorn and resentment from his conservative middle class family, it was a gamble he had to take. Cordero wanted to become a fashion designer. It would have been easier if he had wanted to be a leper colony administrator.

"I was a rather nervous, self-outed gay then, but I didn't know a single homosexual. During the straight-laced '60s, society looked down on the *modistas* or feminine gays. I wasn't that at all, having played Tarzan and marbles with my many male cousins, but the idea of designing women's clothes was not considered respectable. Back then, to believe you could actually earn a living creating couture was an idea as abstract as metaphysics," says Cordero.

This very intelligent young man graduated from high school with top honors, and was the president of the student council. Cordero was the second among three siblings from his mother Loreto Elagdon's second marriage. His father had a stroke when Cordero was young, and was a virtual invalid as the boy was growing up. "I never really had a father figure," he recalls. The mama's boy who watched her cook her savory dishes was also his mother's best friend. She gave him constant support and encouragement, and to the end of her life some five years ago, Cordero and his mother shared much affection, respect and friendship.

So it was Cordero's mom who knew that her son would spend hours down-

To page 2

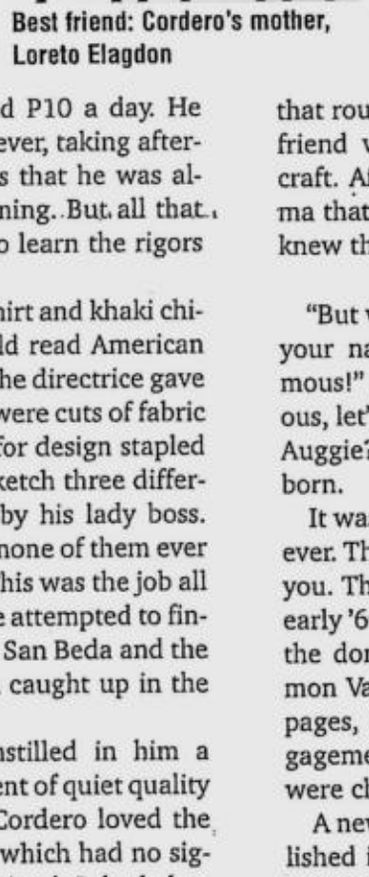
A Filipino Gymnast in Training, p.4

WWF's Whale Shark Man, p.5

Auggie ...from page 1

The Hyatt 6:Six designers in the '70s luncheon fashion show called "Woman x 7," from left: Romulo Estrada, Ernest Santiago, Justi Mendoza, Goulee Gorospe, Cordero and Cesar Gaupo

Lion King: Cordero's portrait for the second Ramon Valera Awards, where he won Best In Couture, 1976



Best friend: Cordero's mother, Loreto Elagdon

town watching American movies, then go home and open a locked desk drawer where sharpened Mongol No.1 pencils and long white coupon bond paper lay. With a dexterity and flair that Cordero possesses to this day, he would sketch the costumes and outfits he had just seen. Audrey Hepburn clothed by Hubert de Givenchy or Katharine Hepburn in trouser suits were favorite muses, which later became permanent fashion references.

Atelier calling

Woe to Cordero if his older brother found a sketch of a gown—the punishment was no dinner that night, along with stern admonitions. But true to his artistic calling, the shy but headstrong young man knew exactly what he wanted.

So it was a letter to Emma Crisologo, a prominent if low-profile dressmaker to whom Cordero wrote, stating how he wished to work in her Roxas Boulevard atelier, that started it all. He had only read about the woman in a newspaper article, and dared to send a letter. She wrote back, and asked him to work as a sketcher on probation thrice a week, from 8 to 11 a.m. He would be paid P10 a day. He would have to live a double life, however, taking afternoon classes and lying to his parents that he was always going to the library in the morning. But all that was part and parcel of his decision to learn the rigors and discipline of dress design.

Bright and early, Cordero, in polo shirt and khaki chinos, would report for work. He would read American Vogue before his employer Emma or the directrice gave him the job orders for the day. These were cuts of fabric with a client's name and preference for design stapled on them. For each, Cordero had to sketch three different designs. One would be chosen by his lady boss. There were two other sketchers, and none of them ever spoke or socialized with the clients. This was the job all sketchers did in Manila in the '60s. He attempted to finish the accounting courses he took at San Beda and the Far Eastern University, but was soon caught up in the work he loved.

Cordero idolized Emma, who instilled in him a healthy work ethic and the discernment of quiet quality rather than flashy, trendy designs. Cordero loved the cozy dark interiors of Emma's shop, which had no signage in front. It was plush but restrained. It had class and dignity. Cordero made a promise to himself that someday his own atelier would feel and look just like this.

Emma took a liking to 17-year-old Augusto, and a mentor and apprentice relationship soon developed. When she would say, "Okay, Augusto, go up to the workroom and watch the cutters make a pattern for your design, learn while they cut the fabric and watch them stitch and put it together," his eyes would light up, because the other sketchers were never allowed to do that. Here was the laboratory of cutting and sewing, the world of his trade opening up to him. "In many ways, I owe my career to her," Cordero says of Emma now.

To learn the rigors and science of made-to-order dressmaking was now his focus. Different methods of doing skirts, jackets and day dresses were mastered by the young Cordero. Construction and finishing, the balance of proportion; the elegance of embroidery, combination and accessorizing—he slowly studied and applied these to his design repertoire.

In those days, Cordero's peers studied fashion sketching at Slim's (Salvacion Lim Higgins' school on Mabini in Malate) before applying for apprenticeship. Luckily, Cordero skipped that route and found a great teacher and friend who shared the knowledge and craft. After two years, Cordero told Emma that he wanted to go on his own. He knew the time had come.

Designing domain

"But wait a minute. We have to change your name if you want to become famous!" Emma said. "Augusto is too serious, let's think of a nickname. How about Auggie?" And so Auggie Cordero was born.

It was a slow and traumatic start, however. There were no publicists to promote you. There were no lifestyle pages in the early '60s, only a society page, which was the domain of a few designers like Ramon Valera and Slim's. On these society pages, debutantes were introduced, engagements were heralded and weddings were chronicled.

A new name was snubbed by the established if older designers. They knew the '70s belonged to the young and the daring. Fashion was exploding with revolutionary styles like the mini skirt and menswear for women. It was hip to explore the counter-culture, and shocking space age design was the uniform of the gamine youth led by legendary British model Twiggy. Perhaps the likes of Pitoy Moreno, Ben Farrales and Aureo Alonzo realized the fashion tide in Manila was changing.

Their clients now had teen-age daughters who embraced the freedom of choosing their own clothes. In a modest and small commercial space on Herran, Auggie Cordero opened his first shop. It was painted all in white, with matching wicker furniture and soft blue denim cushions. It soon became the headquarters of pretty young *colegialas* from St. Paul's College, Assumption and UP. The truly young if somewhat rebellious fashions made from chambray, organza, gingham, and the lowly *katsa* or unbleached cheesecloth were the favorites of the students who flocked to Auggie's atelier. Soon, Auggie became the Darling of the Press, patronized by woman editors like Jullie Yap Daza.

Secret weapon

Often, a matron with airs would arrive with no appointment to check out where her daughter had her prom outfit made. With apparent suspicion, she would interview Auggie like he was on trial, even insulting his designs and the tag price of P250. She would say he had no right to charge that amount because he was not famous. The shocked Cordero kept his poise, and would politely ask the matron to leave the premises when she was finished. Later, though, the situation would change, and many times the mother would become a client and friend of Cordero for many generations to come. That was his secret weapon: Cordero knew the intimacy of such powerful friendships was essential to creating a die-hard loyal clientele.

Fast forward to the present. After 30 years of good fortune, Cordero is counted in Philippine fashion history as belonging to the third generation of the golden age of Philippine fashion, which started in the '40s. His métier is secure, his craft distilled to rarified form, and his accumulated wit and wisdom as sharp as when this writer first worked with him in 1975. His taste is impeccable, and his personal triumphs and accolades unquestioned.

"You've got to have inner honesty with yourself," says Cordero between puffs of cigarette smoke in his atelier, still soft-spoken and pensive after years of dealing with all sorts of clientele. "Don't ever believe your own press releases. This could be the start of your own downfall. I have no pity for fools who lie to themselves. If you are grounded in reality and continue to have curiosity for your craft and respect for others, you will endure. You are the only one who can figure out your professional worth, and only you can set the standards of excellence and parameters of personal satisfaction in your profession as well as in your private life."

In recent years, Cordero has sometimes been called a recluse, preferring to stay at home and socialize with few close friends rather than party with the fashion crowd. It's more out of simple personal preference than disdain, says this voracious reader and movie addict who gets copies of all the major fashion magazines, books and DVDs delivered to his atelier every month, which is how he keeps meticulously up-to-date with what's new in the world.

"I only care to have my workers, who are my extended family, always creating perfection in my atelier," says Cordero, summing up his work ethic. "Besides, 24 hours a day are not enough for everything I want to learn and read. I went to this bookstore recently for the first time, and I almost lost my mind!"

Applauded finale

Last Friday, Cordero was the finale of Metrowear, Metro Magazine's annual fashion showdown which featured capsule collections from 20 young and senior designers of the industry. Auggie presented his own take on Jane Austen's "Sense and Sensibility" heroines. "The empire waist is the new silhouette I'm designing. It makes a woman instantly taller, slimmer and elegant," says Cordero. He whipped up dreams of black silk chiffon and liquid gold lamé from Abraham fabrics, to match the smoky-eyed makeup executed by Patrick Rosas and the silk flower headresses. The three models were met with thunderous applause.

"Once you have identified your silhouettes, your color palette, and the fabrics you employ in your repertoire, it becomes a streamlining of the work, from the sketch to the last buttonhole," Cordero says.

"Therein lies the enjoyment of making a bridal gown, for instance. For me, this is a great service and challenge—to create the most beautiful gown for the most important day of a woman's life." Cordero admits to a passion for brides that has made him one of the country's top bridal designers. "This is why I have specialized in creating really pretty bridal gowns. This is my life goal, my vocation. It is the fountain of youth."

Despite his very private nature, Auggie Cordero is admittedly still happy with all this attention. It's nice to note that this semi-recluse hasn't forgotten how to make an entrance, and is still at the peak of his profession. And he doesn't have to speak too loudly to do it. Q

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Fashion first: Cordero and his models (clockwise from top right) Beth de Mesa, Gina Leviste, Myra Montelibano and France Dionisio, make the cover of Asiaweek in 1981

Sunday Inquirer Magazine November 27, 2005
Vol. 19 No. 39 ISSN 0116 - 232X

Editor in Chief	**Alya B. Honasan**
Managing Editor	**Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz**
Associate Editor	**Ruel S. De Vera**
Staff Writer	**Eric S. Caruncho**
Graphic Designer	**Chuchie Quevedo-See**
Design Consultant	**Lynett A. Villariba**
Editorial Assistant	**Sharon M. Felipe**
Advertising & Sales Manager	**Kenny Nuyda**

THE Sunday INQUIRER MAGAZINE holds office at Chino Roces Ave. (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City, with telephone number 897-8808 locals 317 and 318. Mailing address: PO Box 2050, 1099 Manila, Philippines. E-mail: sim@inquirer.com.ph. For press releases, send e-mail to pr_sim@inquirer.com.ph.

ELECTRIFYING ABSENCE

I felt dispirited to hear from Luis H. Francia that his column would no longer appear in this magazine ("Tale of Two Cities," **SIM**, 20 November 2005). He is one of those few who can provoke intellectually. He was talking of a redesign but whatever the reason, all I can say is: Politics will always be politics and business is business. Sometimes they collide but very likely in the end, they scratch each other's back. Surely I'm going to miss his electrifying thoughts even if expressed in a seemingly rambling style.

LORENZO A. FERNANDEZ, JR.
Lot 3 Block 2, Cecilia Village I, Cabanatuan City

THE NAMES OF CHANGE

I would like to thank you for featuring Eric Caruncho's "Wawi Navarroza: Fashionista Makes Art and Music from Stories in Her Head," (**SIM**, 30 October 2005) which is about the lead vocalist, Wawi Navarroza, from one of my favorite bands today, The Late Isabel. I thought nobody would recognize the band, especially the lead singer, who really makes heads turn since she loves wearing black, like a witch or something. I really love her for making a fashion statement of her own and bringing back the old days when I used to go to punk gigs.

I heard about the band from a friend of mine and schoolmate in TUP, Lirio Salvador, also from a band called Elemento. This band uses functional junk art for its instruments, calling them Sandata. It also released its own LP independently. He talked about a group that sounds exactly like Siouxsie and the Banshees, which became famous in the '80s for their gothic and pop music.

The band started as Madeline Usher in 1998 and changed into Old World Charm in 1999, and later into The Late Isabel with Wawi (vocals), Allan Hernandez (guitars), JP Agcaoili (drums) and Roval Bacale (bass).The group started with death metal then later shifted to gothic punk. The group describes its music as being associated with the punk music of the '80s, its art, photography, poetry and literature, all in one package.

This band released their independently produced LP called Doll's Head with songs like "Doll's Head," "Dead Eyes,"The Rising Tide," "Follow (The Mad March)," etc.. Sad to say, the LP is nowhere to be found, so I went to C.M. Recto to try to find it in the streets where vendors are selling pirated CDs and voila! There are lots of independent bands who didn't release their LPs with major labels. These bands have potential; they write songs with more depth than those released by major labels. I suggest that record producers give them a chance since they have a cult following. They are inspired by famous bands in the '80s and '90s, particularly bands like Identity Crisis, The Dawn, Eraserheads, Rivermaya, Teeth, etc.,. and are trying to make a name with their own efforts.

Where can I buy your LP, guys? Please text me at 0919-5539551. Hope to hear from you.

More power to **SIM** and to Mr. Caruncho, keep on rocking.

EDNEL A. ALMORADIE
Via e-mail

Controversies

by Michael Lim Ubac

From Aspiring Priest to GMA Lieutenant to Flying (Too?) High

PDI PHOTO

ON BOARD his favorite twin-engine Cessna 421B, Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay Jr. is flying high these days, crisscrossing the nation's skies from Manila to Cebu to as far as Davao and his home province in the south. Thanks to the leadership row in the House of Representatives which pits this businessman-turned-lawmaker against Speaker Jose de Venecia, Pichay is soaring to new heights.

But his detractors are asking: "Is the man flying too high? Does Pichay, perceived to be President Arroyo's fair-haired boy, have enough fuel to maintain course?

He presents himself as an alternative to House Speaker Jose de Venecia. But is this Surigao del Sur representative only after reforms, as he claims, or is he only acting on the behest of his patron and good friend, President Arroyo?

"Nobody thought that the idea of going against Speaker Jose de Venecia would fly," admits Pichay as he sits comfortably in the four-seater 1972-model plane that he had borrowed from a Swiss friend.

Clandestine ouster

At a news forum early this month, Negros Oriental Rep. Jacinto Paras had announced that De Venecia must agree to institute reforms in the House or face clandestine ouster moves led by the Surigao del Sur congressman. Pichay however sought to downplay the challenge: "This is not an anti-JDV (move), but a pro-reform crusade," he says.

But in the end, a phone call to Pichay by his self-described "good friend" President Arroyo postponed what could have been a showdown at the resumption of the November 7 session. Arroyo had called the night before to inquire about Pichay's frequent provincial sorties and he had assured her that he would be making no moves without her knowledge. Thus was the House treated to a genial handshake between the Speaker and his vocal critic. But Pichay wasn't quite finished yet and issued a veiled warning: "I have not yet decided to challenge (De Venecia) for the speakership. But if he resists reforms, I will be there swinging."

With such calculating moves at his disposal and the man's predisposition to use them, who would have thought that Pichay once contemplated priesthood?

Pichay's parents sent him to study at the St. Peter Seminary in Butuan City. Four years later, as he was preparing to leave for the Guadalupe Seminary in Makati to pursue his vocation, destiny intervened, or so it seemed. "I was hijacked by my friends to take the entrance exams at De La Salle (University), which I passed," he recalls. Soon after, armed with a commerce degree, Pichay started a marketing and shipping business in Cebu.

But his dream of becoming a successful businessman lured him back to Manila, where he joined the chemical and adhesive company Pentachem, founded by a close relative.

It was while marketing adhesive and ink products when Pichay discovered, and later started, a publishing business which counted Abante and Sports Unlimited as its clients. "It was very profitable," says Pichay, admitting that the bulk of his fortune today came from publishing.

Shared expertise

The fourth child in a brood of eight, Pichay came from a line of public servants. His father Pichay Sr. was a treasurer in the provincial capitol until he died in 1985, while mother Migdonia Arreza, now 85, once served as a public school superintendent.

Pichay had dreamed of becoming a media mogul like William Randolf Hearst, who was associated with yellow journalism. After all, he was already cashing in on his tabloids—Remate and Pinoy—a hit among the masses for their screaming headlines and sexy starlets. He later acquired dzME. But Pichay quickly shifted to politics after attending the town fiesta of Cantilan and discovering that Surigao's first class status had deteriorated. It had become one of the 20 poorest provinces despite its vast potentials in logging, mining and fishing.

"I found out that the leadership was only interested in satisfying personal interests," he claims. "So it dawned on me that it's about time I shared my expertise with the people."

Determined to bring back Surigao's "old glory," Pichay ran and won a congressional seat in 1998. As a neophyte, he gravitated toward the House minority bloc led by personalities critical of then President Joseph Estrada. It was not long before Estrada singled him out for his anti-administration tirades. "That started to catapult my name into national consciousness," he quips, "Of course, apart from my name which sounds bizarre."

But the consequences of being one of the most vocal critics of a sitting President proved costly. His publications were raided by authorities one by one; some were even padlocked. This, however, drew him closer to then Vice President Arroyo, whom he met when she was still a senator. With his newfound wings, Pichay earned detractors as fast as he made friends.

He shot to national prominence—or notoriety, as his detractors would say—when he was linked to the "Gang of 5," a group of congressmen allegedly using congressional inquiries as

To page 7

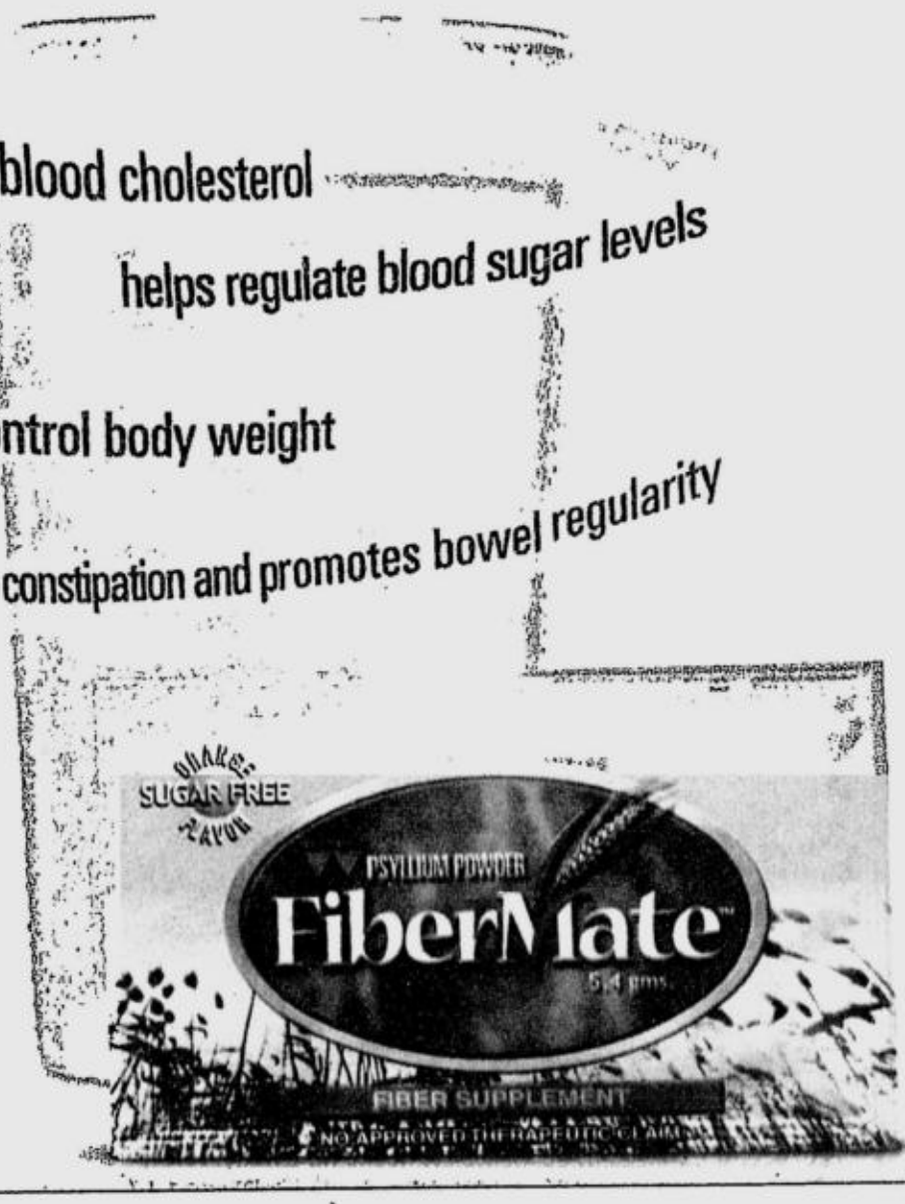
Healthy living starts here

lowers blood cholesterol

helps regulate blood sugar levels

helps control body weight

prevents constipation and promotes bowel regularity



In two delicious, sugar-free flavors: orange and natural.

Introducing FiberMate. A brand of psyllium proven to cleanse your body of harmful elements. For a cleaner, healthier you. So, drink up now. Stay Clean. Stay Healthy.

A quality product of Unilab

Suggested Retail Price: ₱16.50/5.4 gm sachet; P495.00/200 gm canister.

Getting to Know Fiber

Q: What is dietary fiber?
A: Dietary fiber is a complex carbohydrate found in plants that, when ingested, is not digested but excreted from the body.

Q: Why is fiber important in my diet?
A: Fiber is important because it offers a lot of health benefits: lowers blood cholesterol, helps regulate blood sugar levels, helps control body weight, prevents constipation and promotes bowel regularity

Q: Where can I get fiber?
A: Fruits and vegetables are great sources of fiber. It can also be obtained from wheat, barley, rye, corn and rice, and other whole-grain foods. However, there are also readily-available fiber supplements in the market, like FiberMate, to help augment your daily fiber requirement.

Q: What is Fibermate and how does FiberMate work?
A: Fibermate is a dietary fiber supplement containing psyllium, one of the best sources of dietary fiber. When dissolved in water and ingested, it becomes a gelatinous mass and swells up to 20 times its volume. It traps toxins and harmful residues and flushes them out together with the stool.

Q. How does FiberMate help lower blood cholesterol?
A: It binds with the cholesterol-containing bile acids in the gastrointestinal tract and carries them out of the body as waste. This lowers both total and bad cholesterol levels in the blood - thus reducing the risk of heart disease.

Q: How does Fibermate help regulate blood sugar levels?
A: FiberMate slows down the absorption of carbohydrates so blood sugar is prevented from rising steeply after a meal.

Q: How does Fibermate help control body weight?
A: When FiberMate is taken at least 30 minutes before a meal, it creates a feeling of fullness, thus resulting in less food intake It also contains very minimal calories.

Q: How does FiberMate help in relieving constipation?
A: FiberMate increases the bulk of the stools and stimulates the large intestines to contract. Because stools are softer and bulkier, evacuation is easier, thus minimizing the strain that usually causes hemorrhoids.

Q: How do I take FiberMate?
A: Mix a heaping teaspoon of FiberMate with a glass of cold water and drink immediately. Drink another glass of water right after. Those taking other medicines should drink FiberMate at least 1 hour before or 2 hours after medicine intake. When taking FiberMate, be sure to drink more water (6 to 8 glasses) to maintain fluid balance

Q: How much Fibermate do I need in a day?
A: In addition to your regular diet drinking FiberMate 1 to 3 times daily can help you reach the recommended fiber intake of 25 to 35 grams a day*

*Source: US FDA

Ask your doctor about the many health benefits of fiber.

FiberMate

Fibermate is available in supermarkets, drugstores, and health-fitness retail outlets

text and photographs by Ryan Lim

Training Facilities May Be Worn Out, But Not This Athlete's Medals

National gymnast Roel Ramirez intends to somersault his way over any obstacle to excel at the SEA Games

6:30 a.m.: Ramirez arrives at the Rizal Memorial Gymnastic Center to commence the week's training

7:30 a.m.: Ramirez (second from right) stands at attention together with brothers Ronnie (extreme right) and Al (to Ramirez's right) as they listen to coach Sanny Te (with back turned)

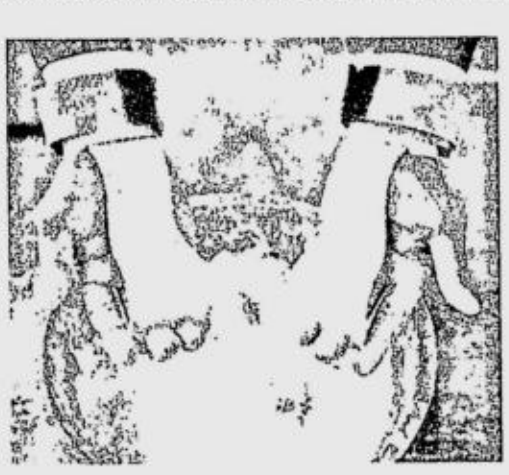
A PROMISING medal prospect in gymnastics, 23-year-old Roel Ramirez is a BS Education junior at the University of the East and a member of the Philippine team for the 23rd Southeast Asian Games that will be held in the country starting today until Dec. 5.

If Roel's medal tally is anything to go by, the SEAG should be a golden opportunity to add to his hoard. Roel won gold medals in the last 2003 SEA Games in Vietnam, a silver medal during the 2004 American Cup in the United States, plus silver and bronze medals at the 2002 Pacific Alliance Games in Canada.

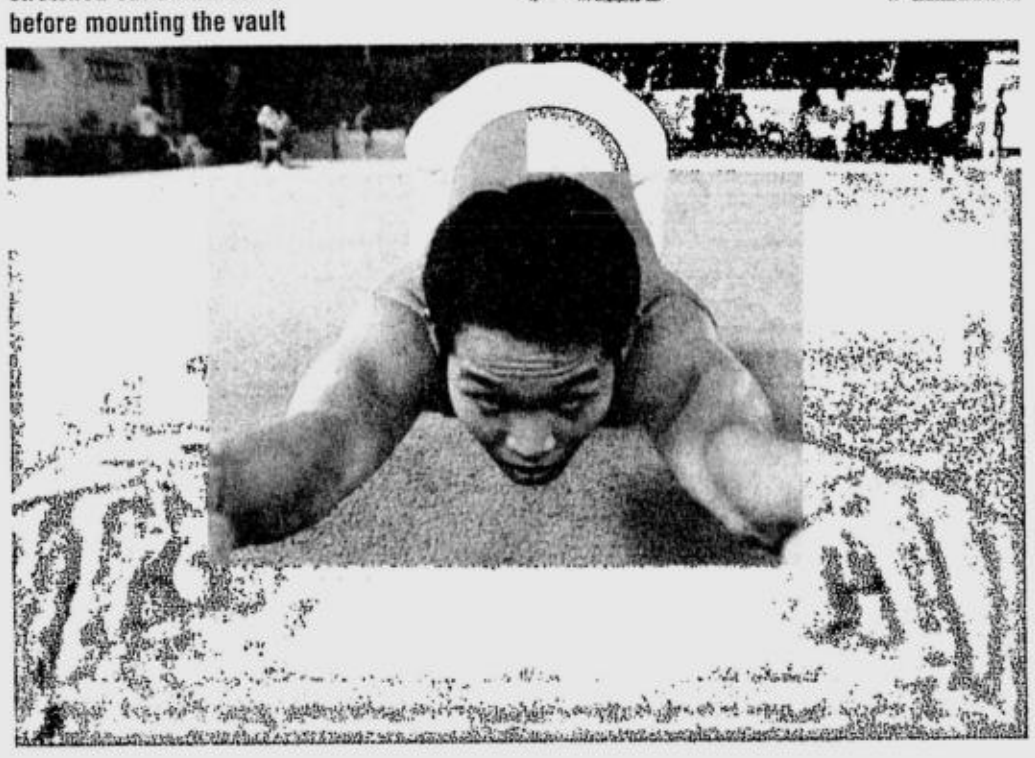
Roel started his career in gymnastics at the age of 9 and joined the RP training pool in 1997. Four of his eight siblings are part of the national gymnastics training pool, as well.

He starts his day with a 30-minute jog at the Rizal Memorial track and field oval before changing into gym clothes to do calisthenics. This is part of his nearly half-day-long exercise routine, six days a week.

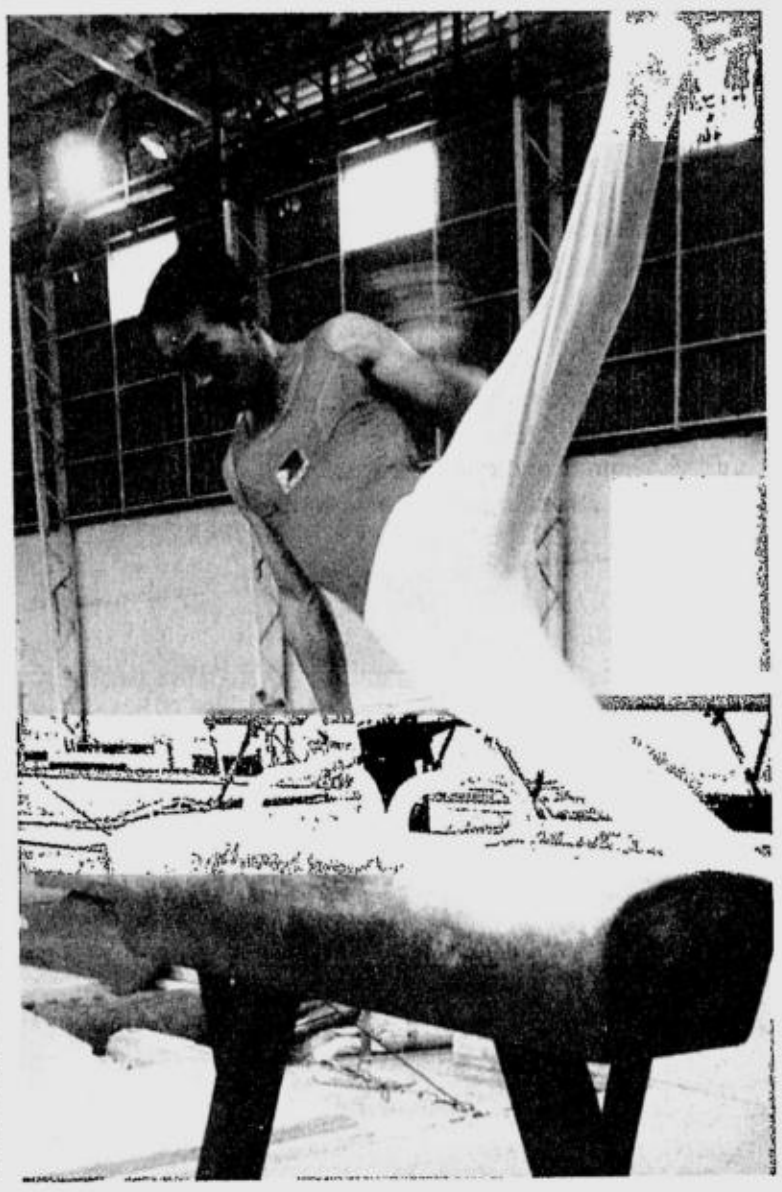
Roel muses that, if only the government would give them greater support as well as new training facilities, he and other national athletes would certainly be more productive. As he goes through his routine, one sees living proof of the Filipino's medal potential.



9:10 a.m.: Ramirez dips his hand grips in powder prior to his exercises



9:50 a.m.: He gets all stretched out on the floor before mounting the vault



10:30 a.m.: Displaying his winning form on the rings

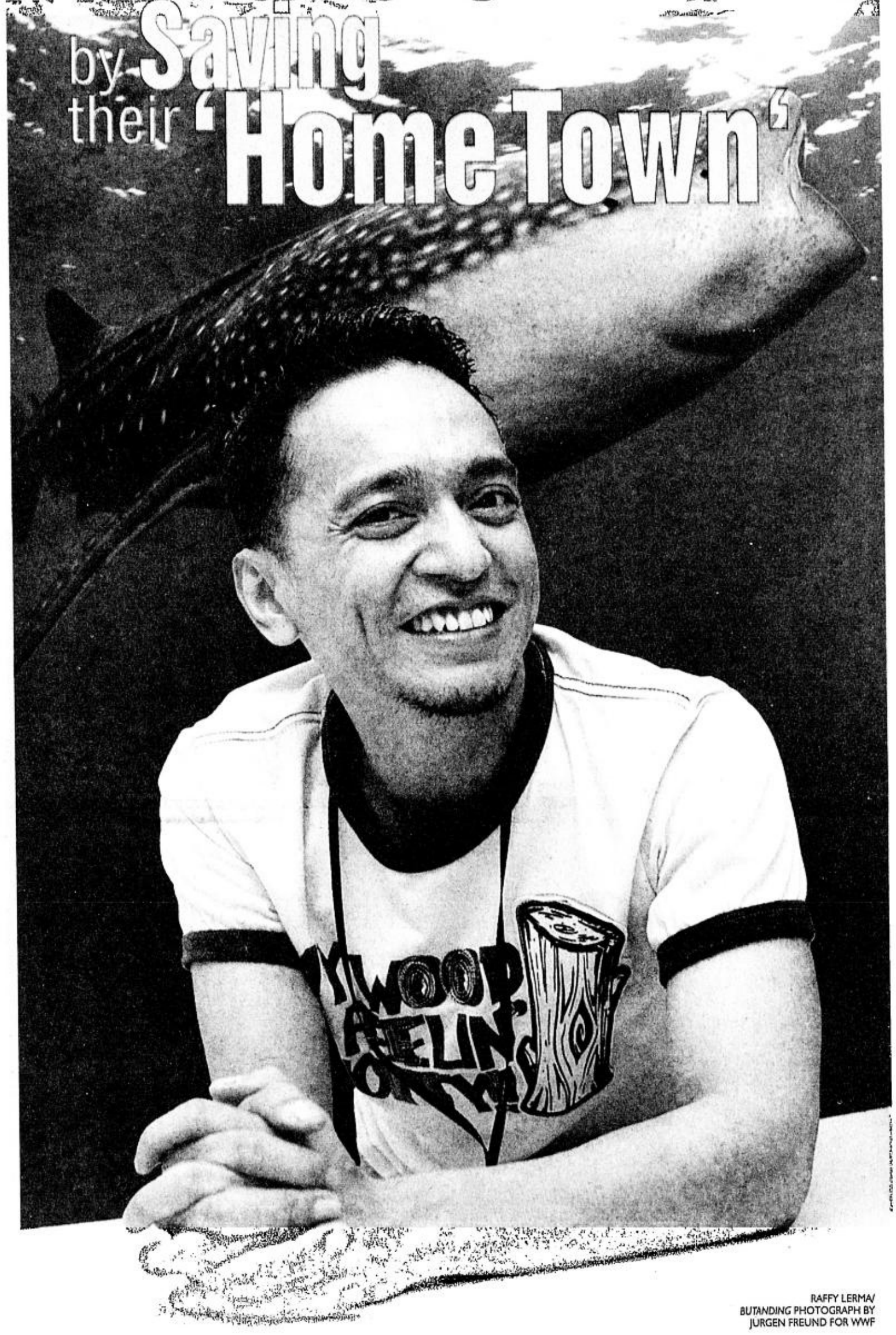
12:45 p.m.: Switching gears, Ramirez makes his way to his classes at the University of the East

8:30 p.m.: Finally kicking back after another full day, Ramirez catches some TV with his brothers and sister Rhea

He's Saving the Whale Sharks by Saving their 'Home Town'

Ruel Pine, WWF-Philippines' man in Donsol, Sorsogon, is helping this once impoverished community-turned-ecotourism hot spot strike the balance between development and conservation

by Alya B. Honasan



RAFFY LERMA/
BUTANDING PHOTOGRAPH BY
JURGEN FREUND FOR WWF

"I GOT s ed!" That was how Ruel Pine reacted when n November 2004, swimming with the wha harks in Donsol, Sorsogon was declared " best wild animal encounter" by Time M zine in its "Best of Asia" special issue.

As project manager of the community-based ecotourism and coastal resource management project of the World-Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)-Philippines in Donsol, Pine is helping what was once an impoverished fishing community in the Bicol region cope with the fame brought by this unique natural phenomenon.

"Donsol is not a circus," Pine says. "It's a very important area for conservation and community development." For those who haven't heard—or who live under a rock—the small bay of this coastal town has long played seasonal host to huge numbers of the world's largest fish, *Rhincodon typus,* known locally as *butanding*, gentle giants that can grow to as long as 20 meters. It was only in 1998, however, that the rest of the world learned about the animals, and tourists began arriving in droves, leaving local officials unprepared for the influx.

"It wasn't easy in the beginning," says Pine, who joined the project in 2000. "The way to get a job done was not always a straight line. But people were eventually convinced of the sincerity of WWF." Today, the WWF project in Donsol has become a laudable example of how the public and private sectors can work together.

Startling results

"Ruel has achieved some startling results working in an area that was initially rather difficult, working with a species that was little understood," says WWF President Lory Tan. "It's all about good governance," Pine says, beaming. "In 1998, it was just about ecotourism. Now, even issues like illegal commercial fishing are being addressed. It's the chief executives and the municipal council working well together."

Nowadays, his working relationship with the people is "perfect," Pine says. "I'm proud to say that when we call for a meeting, the 11 heads of the coastal barangays have 100 percent attendance. They've embraced the concept of conservation." In the last six months, after a Bantay Dagat team was formed, there have been six apprehensions and one conviction of illegal fishermen. Not bad for a town where almost all of the fishermen doubling as BIOs—that's *butanding* interaction officers, who spot the whales for tourists who want to see them from a boat or swim with them—once used dynamite and cyanide to catch fish. There are visible signs of such organization; the roads are concrete, and resorts and *sari-sari* stores have sprouted. In the first six months of this year alone, the ecotourism industry in Donsol has brought the municipality an additional P7 million in income.

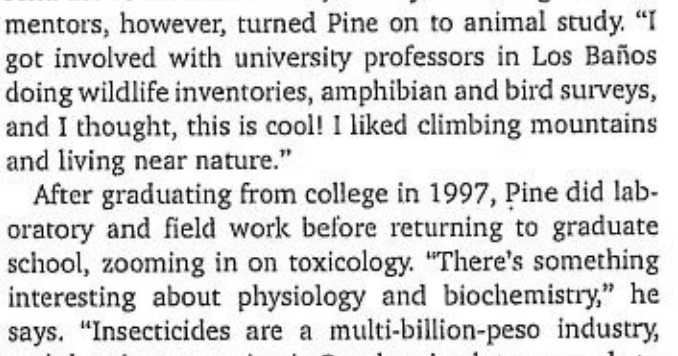
And that's what coastal resource management is all about. "It's really a food issue," Pine says. "But it's connected to the whale sharks, because we cannot conserve a species and neglect other components of the ecosystem, its habitat. Fortunately, the people's sense of ownership of the *butanding* is great. If anybody tried to come here now and catch them, the community wouldn't let it happen." His only job, Pine says, is "to listen—and to plot strategies based on what I learn from the people."

Affinity for majesty

The first time he swam with a whale shark, Pine says, he was dumbfounded by "its majesty. I couldn't believe people would want to kill this creature." His affinity for wildlife was developed early, as he grew up with pets. Born in Manila, the fifth of sixth children, Pine originally wanted to become a doctor, taking up zoology at the University of the Philippines in Los Baños. "But then I realized my family didn't have the resources to send me to medical school," he says. Working with his mentors, however, turned Pine on to animal study. "I got involved with university professors in Los Baños doing wildlife inventories, amphibian and bird surveys, and I thought, this is cool! I liked climbing mountains and living near nature."

After graduating from college in 1997, Pine did laboratory and field work before returning to graduate school, zooming in on toxicology. "There's something interesting about physiology and biochemistry," he says. "Insecticides are a multi-billion-peso industry, and there's no escaping it. But there's a lot we can do to make it safe." The position of WWF project assistant in Donsol was first offered to a friend, but she hadn't finished her course work. Pine applied for the job, and became head of the project after six months.

Today, he practically lives in Donsol; "I have to find a reason to go to Manila!" he says. laughing. "I'm totally immersed in the community, even in *chismis* I'm not supposed to know." Pine lives in a staff house with two other WWF workers. "The hardest part was to give up my urban lifestyle, because it can be so lonely to be away from family and friends, but I've gotten used to it. Thank God for wireless Internet connections. I used to have to travel 55 kilometers to Legaspi to send e-mail."



Pine admits he has no weekends, as "conservation is a full-time job," but he consciously makes time for himself. "I almost got burned out, but I realized it would be bad for me and bad for the work." Instead, he's stocked up on good books and spends his leisure time reading. On the rare trips to Manila, he soaks up the malls before returning to his bucolic job site.

Exhausting work

WWF's Donsol project will not last forever, however, and Pine is aware of the day when he has to leave Donsol, some time in 2007 or 2008. "The community knows we are leaving, but *kayang-kaya na nila yan"* (They can do it). He doesn't see himself plunging into another project very soon, "unless it's as exciting as Donsol has been. Conservation work can be very exhausting. My dream is actually to be a pre-school teacher. But we'll see."

With the *butanding* season just around the corner and the tourists expected to descend upon Donsol once more, Pine cannot help but be apprehensive. WWF has outlined guidelines for swimming with the animals, and these include not touching or harassing them so they are not frightened or interrupted in their feeding. Sadly, though, some insensitive visitors just don't get it. "We have to remember to respect the local culture and the interaction policies. It's all been written out for them, they just have to comply." And hopefully, every visitor can do his or her part to keep the *butanding*—and Donsol—alive and thriving. Q

Visit WWF's Panda Booth at the 2/F landing of Greenbelt 3 until November 30. Give gifts that benefit the environment, by choosing from a variety of WWF merchandise. Part of the proceeds will go to WWF's conservation initiatives in project sites all over the country. You can also drop by the Panda Booth and register to be a WWF member.

Perfect relationship: Pine (rightmost) meets with Donsol's fishermen

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

GUYITO POWER

GUYITO, the official mascot of the Philippine Daily INQUIRER, takes centerstage as the newspaper marks its 20th anniversary in December. Festivities will be highlighted by the unveiling of 20 Guyito carabao sculptures based on the character created by chief cartoonist Jess Abrera, and translated into the three-dimensional version by sculptor Juan Sajid Imao.

The INQUIRER has invited 20 of the country's veteran and emerging artists to paint the fiberglass sculptures based on the anniversary theme, "The Power of Knowing." They are: Malang, Bencab, Kidlat Tahimik, Fernando Sena, Salvador Convocar, Soler, Steve Santos, Caña, Lydia Velasco, Ernesto Patricio, Bing Siochi, Roel Obemio, Tres Roman, Wilfredo Offemaria, Bin Samonte, Jef Samonte, Romeo Forbes, Rex Tatlonghari, Anton Balao and Jack Salud.

The carabao sculptures will be donated to 20 selected cities/municipalities nationwide, to be chosen based on their high schools' rankings in the Regional Finals of the Quiz Bee Competition. Miniature versions of the Guyito sculptures will be given to the top 20 companies that have supported the INQUIRER in the past two decades.

From January to May 2006, INQUIRER representatives will visit the 20 selected schools/cities to turn over the sculptures. In addition, an INQUIRER Campus Journalism Workshop will be held in each school. The one-day lecture/workshop will feature INQUIRER reporters, editors and columnists who will discuss specific journalism topics and share their expertise on effective writing, editing and layouting. The number of student participants will be determined by the school's available venue. Delegates will be given a handbook on journalism styles, methods, ethics and best practices.

INQUIRER president Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez said the complement of anniversary activities underscores the need for knowledge. In marking its 20th year, INQUIRER particularly hopes to motivate students to become achievers. "Through these projects, we hope to inspire the young to value reading and use it as a tool to attaining their dreams."

Sunday INQUIRER Magazine profiles the artists who have made the Guyito undertaking possible.

Bing Siochi A Return to His True Nature

The successful businessman-turned-artist celebrates the verdant surroundings of his youth

by Eric S. Caruncho

FOR landscape specialist Bing Siochi, covering every square inch of Guyito's surface with greenery and foliage is a nostalgic voyage to the once-lush forests of his childhood in Nabunturan, Davao del Norte, now long fallen to the logger's chainsaw and the developer's bulldozer.

Those virgin forests now exist only in the artist's memory, and sturdy beast of burden that he is, Guyito's broad back provides an ideal vehicle for bringing them back to life, if only for a moment.

"I also paint cityscapes and street scenes, and I do different styles of expression, abstract and modern, but I always go back to nature," says Siochi. For the artist, nature's pull is elemental. Having spent his formative years running among trees and greenery, it is a part of his being, imprinted on his DNA, and not even 40 years of living in the concrete jungles of Manila can erase it.

"I learned to draw even before I learned to write," recalls Siochi, who is completely self-taught. "Whatever I could see, I could visualize."

Odd encouragement

Somehow, despite the absence of artists or other possible role models in his rural environs, Siochi's inclination toward art managed to survive, finding the odd encouragement in books and films about artists.

"Nobody coached me, I learned from reading and from observing nature," he says.

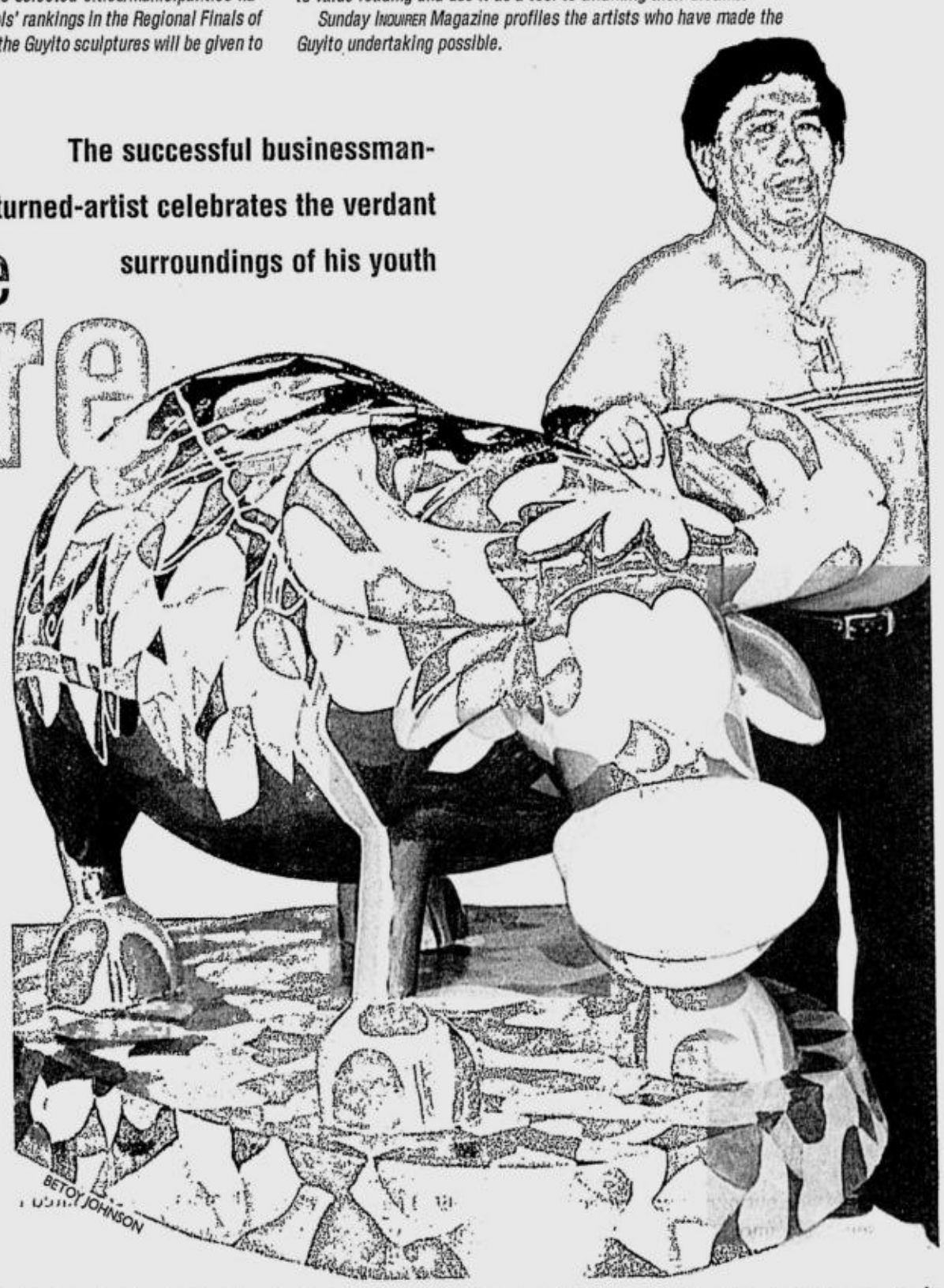
His drawing skills managed to land him his first job in Davao City, painting signs and movie posters (back in the day when movie billboards where painted by hand by skilled artisans). His skill in freehand drawing attracted the attention of one of Davao City's outdoor advertising agencies, and Siochi landed a full-time job as a layout artist. He continued to paint in his spare time, however.

In 1965, he migrated to Manila, with the thought of improving his art and perhaps painting full time, but it was not to be. He met and married his wife Rose, and the union produced three sons in quick succession. The pressures of having to support a growing family changed Siochi's priorities—for the time being, at least.

Siochi put all his energy into building up his own graphic design business, Siochi Concept Design, which later expanded into the production of promotional materials and grew to include its own printing press.

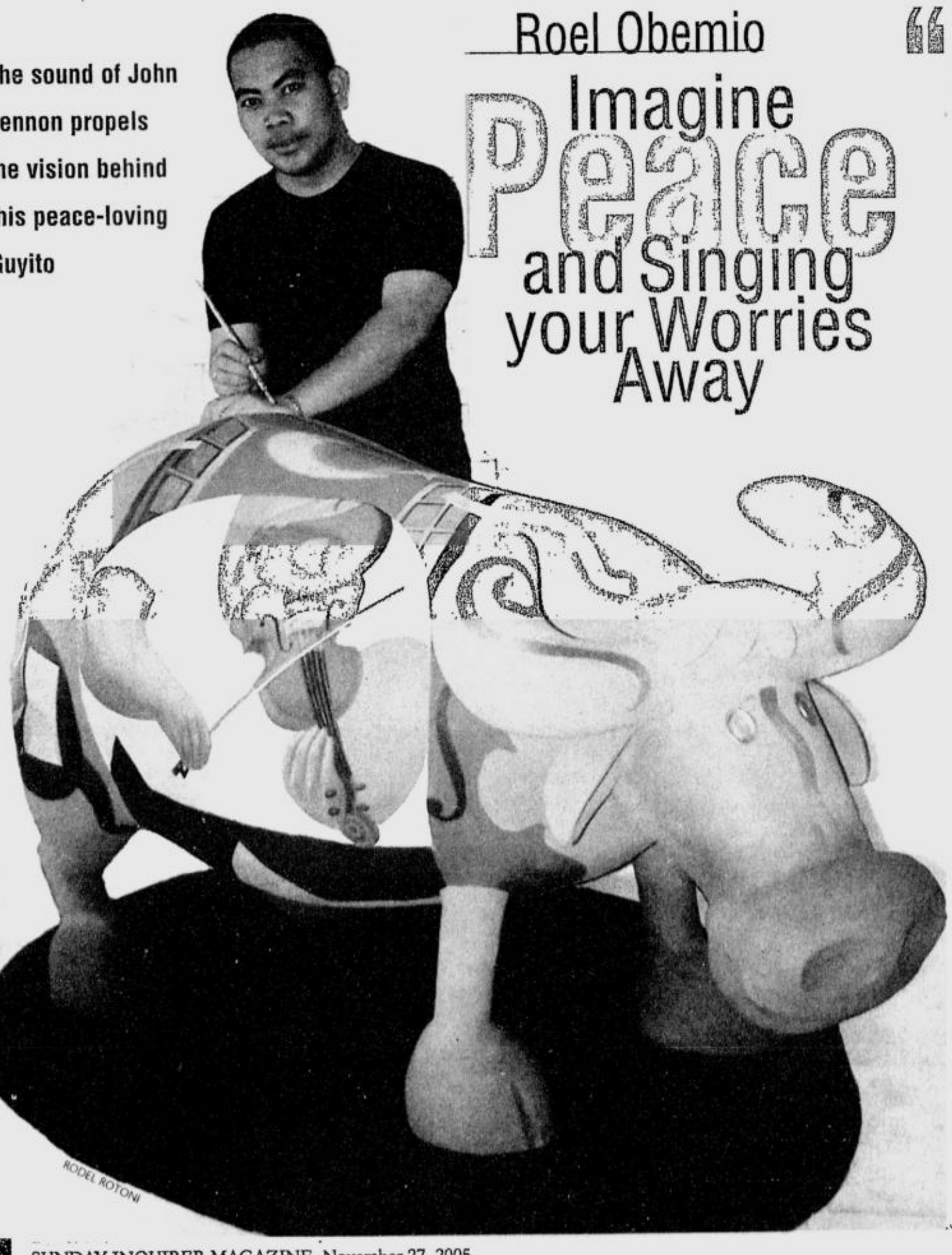
But art, while put on the back burner for the time being, was never completely forgotten. Being a successful business-

To page 7



Roel Obemio Imagine Peace and Singing your Worries Away

The sound of John Lennon propels the vision behind this peace-loving Guyito



by Eric S. Caruncho

"MUSIC is a tool for inner peace," says painter and illustrator Roel Obemio. "Let's escape from the mess of society through music."

In Obemio's work, Guyito's back provides a broad canvas for a stylized rendition of a man playing the violin, the pastoral scene enlivened by a butterfly representing freedom of thought.

"Guyito represents the opinions of all the classes from A to E," he explains. "He always knows what is happening, and he's brave. Even presidents don't bother to arrest him for his opinions in his cartoons. *Panahon pa ni* Marcos *'yan, bata pa at makulit pa rin* (He's been around since Marcos's time and he's still youthful and persistent)."

Music, for Obemio, is therefore a way to soothe the savage beast.

"By portraying music, I want to break the monotony of news that is all about misery, conflict. Like John Lennon sang: imagine all the people, living life in peace..."

Obemio grew up in his home province of Misamis Oriental. "A family story goes that at age three, I enjoyed drawing my first canvas on the floor, while my mother did the erasing," he recalls.

Escape from class

The constant drawing continued well into his school years at the Ateneo: "It was an escape from boredom in class, which often got me my parent's attention for neglecting my assignments—except, of course, for my art class, in which I got perfect grades."

The family encyclopedia which his father brought home one day opened his eyes and mind to the works of the great masters. Obemio began to seek out other books on art, which broadened his understanding and convinced him that it would be his life's calling.

"Along the way, I studied the masters, whose work I looked to for inspiration," he says, citing Malang, Legaspi, Ang Kiukok, Botong Francisco and Bencab as the artists whose work he admires most. He also cites, among younger painters, Convocar, Marcel, Borlongan and Garibay as inspirations.

"Their work influences a lot of my subject matter: the designs of Malang, the colors of Bencab, the techniques of Budz Convocar, the renditions of Legaspi, the strokes of Marcel and the pencils of Borlongan," he says.

After completing his studies in art, Obemio further honed his craft by working for six years as an animator. But in 2002, at the urging of former teacher Budz Convocar and friend Aris Bagtas, he decided to become a full-time painter and joined the Art Association of the Philippines and the Saturday Group.

Unconventional attitude

"Most of my paintings are done in watercolor, but my methods and attitudes toward the medium are unconventional," he says. "Simply to free myself from the uncomfortable constrictions of traditional watercolor textbook practices through the years, I've

To page 7

Bing ...from page 6

man never prevented Siochi from occasional forays into the countryside, where he could continue to foster his passion for landscape painting.

It was only recently that Siochi decided to retire, leaving the running of the business to his wife and sons, and devoting himself completely to art.

In 1998, he found kindred spirits in Angel Cacnio's Tuesday group, enjoying the camaraderie of fellow artists in informal sketching sessions and out-of-town landscape painting forays. Later, he also joined the Saturday Group, another artists' circle. Today he continues to attend sessions of both groups, finally free to live the artist's life he envisioned so many years ago.

"I can be a modernist, I can also be a conservative artist," he says of the various styles he has explored. "For me the important thing is to be able to paint and to be able to express what I feel."

As if making up for lost time, he recently staged his sixth one-man show, and has participated in several group shows. He also has his own gallery, attached to his graphic design firm.

As for his "Guyito" piece, Siochi has this to say: "The carabao is part of nature, and even my people are still a reflection of nature, especially when they're depicting our *ugaling* Pinoy. It's all an extension of my boyhood experience of nature. Progress has ruined it all, but it still exists in my memories."

Roel ...from page 6

been into other mediums such as oil and acrylic. I've also done portraits and caricatures for private and social events for politicians, celebrities and other promo events."

His animation work is also an obvious influence.

"It's an evolution of techniques and styles, and we should also be aware of our times, because an artist and his time are inseparable. Time will always reflect in our subjects."

Which brings us to Obemio's "Guyito" piece.

"I painted the subject of a man playing his violin," he says. "It's my personal point of view to suggest that despite all the misery and anxiety, music can help us escape from reality. *Ang gulo na kasi ng gobyerno ngayon* (Our government is so chaotic now). I just sing all my worries away. It's also an outlet for expressing all my emotions through this medium inspired by John Lennon's 'Imagine' which dictates a surreal world of love, peace and happiness.

"Guyito is a medium, it's Mr. Jess Abrera's thought that counts," he continues. "The artist is always awareof all aspects of human emotion, belief, corruption, misery, anxiety. But he gave us a reason to be optimistic about our future, without leaving behind our sense of humor."

From ...from page

a pretext to get favors from the telecom industry.

He protests the label. "There is no such thing. I've never organized gangs. That was a malicious and irresponsible reporting by unprofessional journalists." Pichay blames his negative image on his "abrasive character" and glibness. "I'm direct and frank, which is not a Filipino trait, so I'm sometimes misconstrued as offensive." Moreover, some quarters observe, some House members exploit his closeness to Malacañang to get projects for their districts.

But Pichay has no qualms about his unconditional loyalty to Ms Arroyo, admittedly a rare trait among the current crop of government officials who shift alliance at the drop of a hat. "I'm not a double talker. When I make a commitment, I keep it. I make things happen. I follow it up personally. It's not my habit to abandon friends," he says. And Ms Arroyo, he says, is a "very good friend. I believe that she values my advice."

Told that few people view him as a paragon of virtue, the kind of man who would espouse reforms, Pichay protests, saying that nobody has a monopoly of reforms. "If this were a religious affair, I'm not the right guy. But anyone who believes in his conscience has the right to advocate reforms."

House reforms

Indeed, Zamboanga del Sur Rep. Antonio Cerilles and Palawan Rep. Antonio Alvarez describe Pichay as "an instrument of reforms," after a crucial caucus of Mindanao lawmakers allied with the ruling coalition. All 24 lawmakers present in the November 5 meeting reportedly wanted reforms in the House leadership.

Opposition Rep. Rolex Suplico of Iloilo describes the "sizzling speakership contest" as if it were a love affair. "(President Arroyo) is torn between two lovers," he says, alluding to both De Venecia and Pichay. She must state her preference this early, Suplico adds, "so we will know who's going to be the new Speaker, Malacanang's lover and *bastonero* (peacekeeper) in the Lower House."

But Malacañang was in no mood for courtship, it seemed. On the eve of the resumption of House sessions, Palace favorite Pichay was overhead telling off Gabriel Claudio, Malacañang's congressional liason, over the phone: "What? Why is she telling me to stop? Am I her appointee? I have been elected by my people," he said in a rather distraught voice. A pause, then Pichay muttered, "I love Ma'am. But does she love me?"

That depends, say analysts, on how the political tides turn. At this point, they note, Ms Arroyo badly needs a loyal ally to derail the Charter Change plans staunchly proposed by De Venecia and former President Ramos to counter ouster moves arising from the "Hello, Garci" election fraud controversy. If it pushes through, the shift to the parliamentary system of government would cut into half Arroyo's six-year term. Pichay, a trusted political lieutenant who's been waiting in the sideliness for so long, seems more than willing to play the role.

Rumors also circulated that First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo was backing Pichay, presumably as a leverage against De Venecia for rushing Charter change.

For his part, Pichay is convinced that he's doing the President a favor by championing the cause of lawmakers disgruntled with De Venecia's perceived unequal allocation of the House budget and the delayed release of their pork barrel.

Politically indebted

So why is she deserting him, he asks. "*May tampo ako kay* Ma'am (I feel so disappointed). I protected her. Why can't she protect me now?"

But that's how politics works, astute observers point out. Outwardly, the President is supportive of De Venecia. She is politically indebted to him for saving her on two occasions—rushing to her side despite mounting calls for her resignation on July 8, and helping assure the resounding defeat of the impeachment complaints against her on September 6.

Yet, Arroyo did not exert efforts to rein in Pichay until much later in the political game when she realized that the stability of the coalition that continued to support her would be compromised by Pichay's speakership bid.

Faced with such exigencies, the Surigao representative has decided to take a philosophical tack. "Even if I lose in this (speakership fight), I have already won," says Pichay. "Somebody from the boondocks has shaken the Speaker. That's already a record." Asked if he could secure the President's blessing, he quips, "I'm not a statue of a saint that needs to be blessed."

In place of the blessing, Pichay banks on the support of his constituents. Indeed, he is a hero of sorts to them, as they all but queued for his attention when he landed at the Tandag airport in Surigao. He has, he claims, used his pork barrel to lift his district from underdevelopment. Among his projects, he reports, were paving 150 kilometers of road, building 14 iron bridges and school buildings, constructing several multi-purpose gymnasiums, rehabilitating hospitals, bringing electricity to far-flung barangays and bringing irrigation to thousands of hectares of rice lands.

But are these enough to propel him to a leading role in national politics? Could this congressman from the boondocks, as he describes himself, stand on his own despite the clashing interests that hound Philippine politics? Pichay shrugs: "Well, one can never tell. There's just no predicting life."

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TV GUIDE

Sunday, November 27, 2005

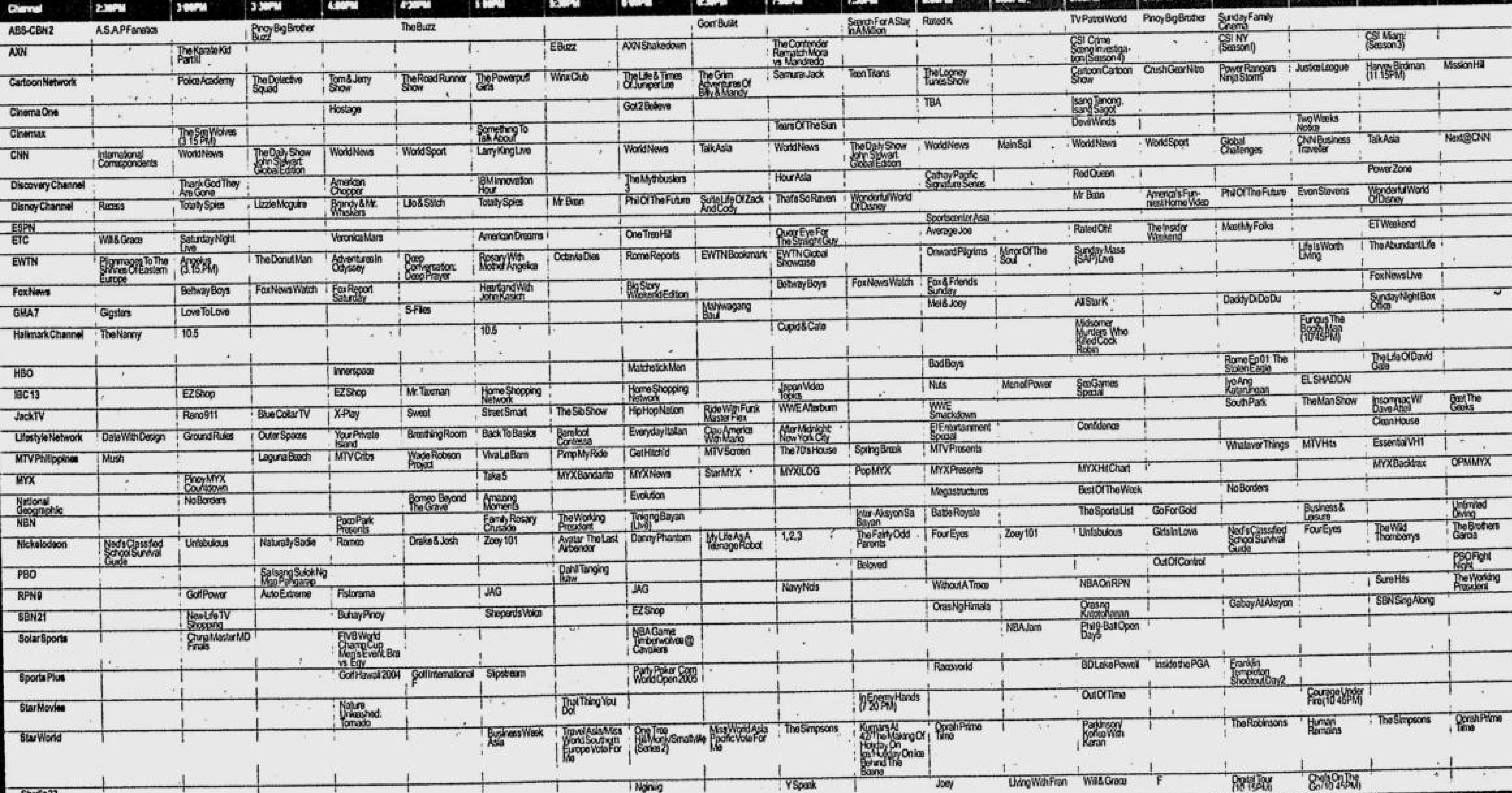
Provided by ClickTheCity.com

For more TV schedules:

1. Visit www.ClickTheCity.com or wap.clickthecity.com.
2. Key in CTC TV and send to 2333 for Globe and to 225 for Smart. PhP2.50 per SMS sent.

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABS-CBN2	A.S.A.P Fanatics		Pinoy Big Brother Buzz		The Buzz				Gon' Bulilit		Search For A Star In A Million	Rated K		TV Patrol World	Pinoy Big Brother	Sunday Family Cinema			
AXN		The Karate Kid Part III					E Buzz	AXN Shakedown		The Contender Rematch Mora vs Manfredo				CSI Crime Scene Investigation (Season 4)		CSI NY (Season 1)		CSI Miami (Season 3)	
Cartoon Network		Police Academy	The Detective Squad	Tom & Jerry Show	The Road Runner Show	The Powerpuff Girls	Winx Club	The Life & Times Of Juniper Lee	The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	Samurai Jack	Teen Titans	The Looney Tunes Show		Cartoon Cartoon Show	Crush Gear Nitro	Power Rangers Ninja Storm	Justice League	Harvey Birdman (11:15PM)	Mission Hill
Cinema One				Hostage				Got 2 Believe				TBA		Isang Tanong, Isang Sagot					
Cinemax		The Sea Wolves (3:15PM)				Something To Talk About				Tears Of The Sun				Devil Winds			Two Weeks Notice		
CNN	International Correspondents	World News	The Daily Show John Stewart Global Edition	World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		World News	Talk Asia	World News	The Daily Show John Stewart Global Edition	World News	Main Sail	World News	World Sport	Global Challenges	CNN Business Traveller	Talk Asia	Next@CNN
Discovery Channel		Thank God They Are Gone		American Chopper		IBM Innovation Hour		The Mythbusters 3		Hour Asia		Cathay Pacific Signature Series		Red Queen				Power Zone	
Disney Channel	Recess	Totally Spies	Lizzie Mcguire	Brandy & Mr. Whiskers	Lilo & Stitch	Totally Spies	Mr Bean	Phil Of The Future	Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Mr Bean	America's Funniest Home Video	Phil Of The Future	Even Stevens	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN												Sportscenter Asia							
ETC	Will & Grace	Saturday Night Live		Veronica Mars		American Dreams		One Tree Hill		Queer Eye For The Straight Guy		Average Joe		Rated Oh!	The Insider Weekend	Meet My Folks		ET Weekend	
EWTN	Pilgrimages To The Shrines Of Eastern Europe	Angelus (3:15PM)	The Donut Man	Adventures In Odyssey	Deep Conversation: Deep Prayer	Rosary With Mother Angelica	Octavia Dias	Rome Reports	EWTN Bookmark	EWTN Global Showcase		Onward Pilgrims	Mirror Of The Soul	Sunday Mass (SAP) Live			Life Is Worth Living	The Abundant Life	
FoxNews		Beltway Boys	Fox News Watch	Fox Report Saturday		Heartland With John Kasich		Big Story Weekend Edition		Beltway Boys	Fox News Watch	Fox & Friends Sunday						Fox News Live	
GMA7	Gigsters	Love To Love			S-Files				Mahiwagang Baul			Mel & Joey		All Star K		Daddy Di Do Du		Sunday Night Box Office	
Hallmark Channel	The Nanny	10.5				10.5				Cupid & Cate				Midsomer Murders Who Killed Cock Robin			Fungus The Bogeyman (10:45PM)		
HBO				Innerspace				Matchstick Men				Bad Boys				Rome Ep01 The Stolen Eagle		The Life Of David Gale	
IBC13		EZ Shop		EZ Shop	Mr. Taxman	Home Shopping Network		Home Shopping Network		Japan Video Topics		Nuts	Men of Power	Sex Games Special		Iyo Ang Katarungan	EL SHADDAI		
JackTV		Reno 911	Blue Collar TV	X-Play	Sweat	Street Smart	The Sib Show	Hip Hop Nation	Ride With Funk Master Flex	WWE Afterburn		WWE Smackdown				South Park	The Man Show	Insomniac W/ Dave Attell	Beat The Geeks
Lifestyle Network	Dale With Design	Ground Rules	Outer Spaces	Your Private Island	Breathing Room	Back To Basics	Barefoot Contessa	Everyday Italian	Ciao America With Mario	After Midnight: New York City		E! Entertainment Special		Confidence				Clean House	
MTV Philippines	Mush		Laguna Beach	MTV Cribs	Wade Robson Project	Viva La Bam	Pimp My Ride	Get Hitch'd	MTV Screen	The 70's House	Spring Break	MTV Presents				Whatever Things	MTV Hits	Essential VH1	
MYX		Pinoy MYX Countdown				Take 5	MYX Bandarito	MYX News	Star MYX	MYX LOG	Pop MYX	MYX Presents		MYX Hit Chart				MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX
National Geographic		No Borders			Borneo Beyond The Grave	Amazing Moments		Evolution				Megastructures		Best Of The Week		No Borders			
NBN				Poco Park Presents		Family Rosary Crusade	The Working President	Tinig ng Bayan (Live)			Inter-Aksyon Sa Bayan	Battle Royale		The Sports List	Go For Gold		Business & Leisure		Unlimited Diving
Nickelodeon	Ned's Classified School Survival Guide	Unfabulous	Naturally Sadie	Romeo	Drake & Josh	Zoey 101	Avatar The Last Airbender	Danny Phantom	My Life As A Teenage Robot	1,2,3	The Fairly Odd Parents	Four Eyes	Zoey 101	Unfabulous	Girls In Love	Ned's Classified School Survival Guide	Four Eyes	The Wild Thornberrys	The Brothers Garcia
PBO			Sa Isang Sulok Ng Mga Pangarap				Dahil Tanging Ikaw				Beloved				Out Of Control				PBO Fight Night
RPN9		Golf Power	Auto Extreme	Fistorama		JAG		JAG		Navy NCIS		Without A Trace		NBA On RPN				Sure Hits	The Working President
SBN21		New Life TV Shopping		Buhay Pinoy		Sheperd's Voice		EZ Shop				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Kristohanan		Gabay At Aksyon		SBN Sing Along	
Solar Sports		China Master MD Finals		FIVB World Champ Cup Men's Event Bra vs Egy				NBA Game Timberwolves @ Cavaliers					NBA Jam	Phil 9-Ball Open Day 3					
Sports Plus				Golf Hawaii 2004	Golf International F	Slipstream		Party Poker Com World Open 2005				Raceworld		BD Lake Powell	Inside the PGA	Franklin Templeton Shootout Day 2			
Star Movies				Nature Unleashed: Tornado			That Thing You Do!				In Enemy Hands (7:20PM)			Out Of Time			Courage Under Fire (10:45PM)		
Star World						Business Week Asia	Travel Asia/Miss World Southern Europe Vote For Me	One Tree Hill/Monk/Smallville (Series 2)	Miss World Asia Pacific Vote For Me	The Simpsons	Kumars At 42/The Making Of Holiday On Ice/Holiday On Ice Behind The Scene	Oprah Prime Time		Parkinson/Koffee With Karan		The Robinsons	Human Remains	The Simpsons	Oprah Prime Time
Studio23								Nginig		Y Speak		Joey	Living With Fran	Will & Grace	F	Digital Tour (10:15PM)	Chefs On The Go (10:45PM)		

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.



MOTOROLA
MOTO SPOTTING
NAME: Jenni Epperson
PROFESSION: Columnist, Stylist
SPOTTED AT: Motorola RAZR Sharp Vision/Fashion Declaration
MOTO PHONE SPOTTED: RAZR V3
WHAT'S YOUR MOTO: "When in doubt, buy!"
NAME: Phoemela Barranda
PROFESSION: Actress/Model
SPOTTED AT: Motorola RAZR Sharp Vision/Fashion Declaration
MOTO PHONE SPOTTED: RAZR V3
WHAT'S YOUR MOTO: "Work hard, play hard."
NAME: Tim Yap
PROFESSION: Eventologist
SPOTTED AT: Motorola RAZR Sharp Vision/Fashion Declaration
MOTO PHONE SPOTTED: RAZR V3
WHAT'S YOUR MOTO: "One must see the invisible to achieve the impossible."
NAME: JM Rodriguez
PROFESSION: Host and Stage Actor
SPOTTED AT: Shu by Ai and MotoPEBL Launch
MOTO PHONE SPOTTED: RAZR V3
WHAT'S YOUR MOTO: "Live by the moment. And don't live your life trying to please other people, but always treat others with respect."
NAME: Kiko Escorra
PROFESSION: Painter, Sculptor, Charcoal artist
SPOTTED AT: Motorola RAZR Sharp Vision/Fashion Declaration
MOTO PHONE SPOTTED: RAZR V3
WHAT'S YOUR MOTO: "Hmmm, I need to process that."
NAME: Xeng Zulueta
PROFESSION: Shu Uemura's Chief Make-up Artist
SPOTTED AT: Motorola RAZR Sharp Vision/Fashion Declaration
MOTO PHONE SPOTTED: RAZR V3
WHAT'S YOUR MOTO: "When all else fails, trust your gut instincts."
NAME: Myk Tolentino
PROFESSION: DJ
SPOTTED AT: Motorola Endorsers Party at Embassy
MOTO PHONE SPOTTED: E680i
WHAT'S YOUR MOTO: "When a DJ delivers he has to understand the different moods people have."
NAME: Roman Mojica
PROFESSION: DJ
SPOTTED AT: Motorola Endorsers Party at Embassy
MOTO PHONE SPOTTED: E680i
WHAT'S YOUR MOTO: "I never play a song I personally don't like."
NAME: Marie Garcia
PROFESSION: DJ
SPOTTED AT: Motorola Endorsers Party at Embassy
MOTO PHONE SPOTTED: E680i
WHAT'S YOUR MOTO: "My personality is my music."
MOTOROLA
NOW THAT IT'S BEEN AWARDED BEST MOBILE PHONE, THINGS LOOK EVEN MORE ATTRACTIVE.
MOTORAZR V3
the mystery unfolds.
beautiful line teased to infinity.
exquisite outside.
hypertech inside.
thin is beautiful.
desirable. exclusive.
now in silver and black.
12:00
MOTORAZR
MOBILENEWS AWARDS 2005
BEST MOBILE PHONE OF THE YEAR 2005
BEST MOBILE PHONE DESIGN 2005
ition black and original silver • superior slim design • camera
• quad-band and Bluetooth® • MP3 ring tones and speaker